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Saipan Tribune

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Derik Reyes tagged in burglary at troop store. PAGE 2

Ex-detention guard gets 15 years in prison. PAGE 6

Lack of quorums hinders govt work

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's lack of appointees to certain boards and commissions or his nominees' failure to immediately submit required document such as financial statement and drug test results have been hampering certain government duties and functions for months and years, including those of the Civil Service Commission, the Board of Professional Licensing, and the NMI Retirement Fund.

- Of at least 16 boards, commissions, only 64 percent filled
- Fitial may decide today on MPLT nominee charged with molestation

A review of at least 16 CNMI government boards and commissions shows that only 71 or 64 percent of 111 board members and commissioners required by law are filled. Each of the reviewed boards is required by law to have anywhere between five and nine members, mostly by governor's appointment and Senate confirmation.

Currently, the membership is between one and seven for each board or commission.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor "is currently discussing vacant slots

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'PURSUE YOUR EDUCATION' CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Underscoring the importance of pursuing higher education, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, who was the keynote speaker in yesterday's 10th commencement exercise at Saipan Southern High School, reminded the Class of 2012 that "there is no substitute for not working and studying hard" in the midst of today's economic challenges.

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the hardest and 5 the easiest, how would you rate the ease of entry to and exit from the CNMI since federal authorities took over the local immigration system?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Students are increasingly encouraged to use their smartphones in class.
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CUC cuts LEAC rate by 10 pct.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Good news for power customers: The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has approved a cut in its levelized energy adjustment clause, commonly known as the LEAC rate.

CUC cut its LEAC rate by 10 percent effective June 5, following a decline in the price of fuel in the world market, according to the latest schedule of electric charges and rates released yesterday by CUC.

The new LEAC rate is now $0.29569 per kilowatt-hour, down from $0.32910 per kWh.

The average residential consumer will see a decrease of about $12.50 per month on their bill, according to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate.

The MOPS (Mean of Platts Singapore) has been down since May 2012, prompting the tariff cut. CUC checked with its consultant, economists.com, to calculate the new LEAC rate.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher pointed out the importance of having the flexibility to adjust rates

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20-cent gas price cut on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Motorists got another reprieve at the pump after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands reduced its pump prices on Saipan by 20 cents a gallon at 4pm yesterday, bringing to 40 cents the total price cuts since May 8.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil service stations is now $4.759 a gallon, down from $4.959 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline now costs $5.079 a gallon, from $5.279 a gallon.

Diesel, meanwhile, is now $5.119 a gallon, compared to the previous price of $5.319 a gallon.

Shell Marianas has yet to change its prices as of early last night, although the two oil giants have historically mirrored each other's price changes.

Rodel Geronimo, 32, said it's a "big relief" that gas prices went down by 20 cents espe-

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Local

Derik Reyes tagged as culprit in troop store burglary

»DPS seeks public's help in locating suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro asked for the public's help yesterday in finding Derik C. Reyes, the suspect in the burglary at the U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Ogumoro said that Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho issued a warrant on Monday for the arrest of the 31-year-old Reyes on charges of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. Camacho imposed an $11,250 cash bail.

Ogumoro said police have made several attempts to locate Reyes at his residence and have contacted family and friends, hoping he would surrender.

Reyes

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said that DPS calls on all law enforcers in the CNMI and the community to work diligently to capture the suspect and bring him to justice.

"Please call 911 if the suspect is spotted. Do not attempt to apprehend him," Tarkong said.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store was burglarized on May 30 and the suspect was caught on surveillance camera committing the crime. Items stolen were a 32-inch Panasonic LCD flat screen TV, HP 201 monitors, and Bose portable music systems, all estimated to cost over $1,500.

Police investigation showed that the suspect used a bolt cutter to cut the padlock on a shipping container used as a storage room of the troop store.

Reyes was also reportedly arrested in 2011 after a surveillance camera caught him and his companion in the act of stealing two flat screen TV sets, towels, and other items from a hotel in Garapan.

Public meetings on 82 coral species

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is conducting five public meetings in June on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam to gather information from the public on a draft management report for 82 species of corals being petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2009.

These informal meetings are an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft management report to ensure all voices have an opportunity to be heard.

The draft management report is an evaluation of the management activities affecting the 82 coral species; including regulatory and conservation efforts.

Meetings are being held on:

■ Saipan on Monday, June 11, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Multipurpose Center on Beach Road in Susupe.

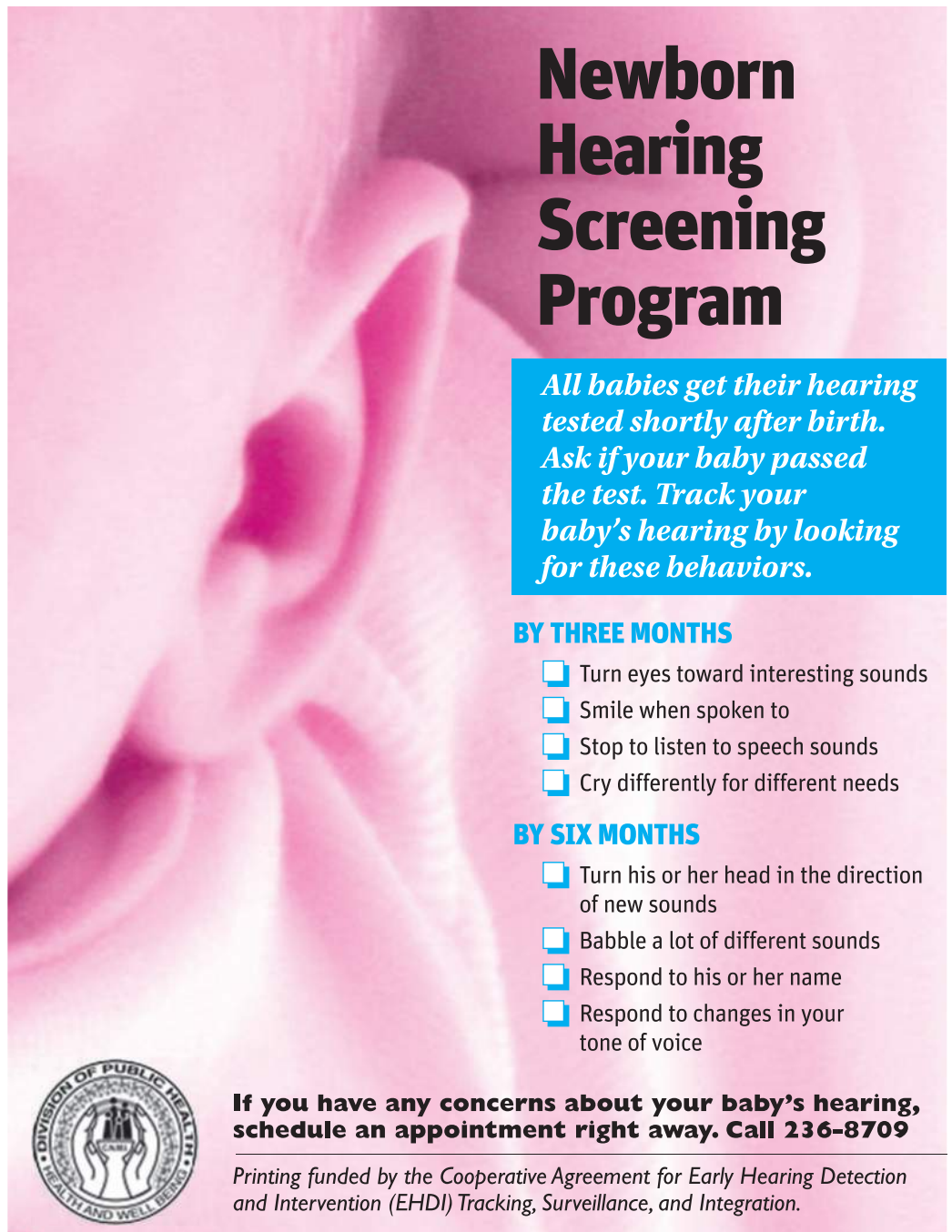
■ Tinian on Tuesday, June 12, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Fleming Hotel.

■ Rota on Thursday, June 14, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Mayor's Office.

■ Guam on Monday, June 18, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Hilton Hotel

■ Guam on Wednesday, June 20, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Santa Rita Community Center.

The 82 species of coral being petitioned for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act are reef-building species. Seven occur in the Caribbean and 75 occur in the Indo-Pacific. The 75 Indo-Pacific reef-building species occur in a total of 68 countries, including the United States and its Pacific island states and territories of Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. ***(NOAA)***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Bank of Guam opens new Chalan Piao branch

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Bank of Guam celebrated yesterday the relocation of its San Antonio branch to Chalan Piao, allowing the "People's Bank" to better serve its clients from the southern portion of the island.

The new office on the ground floor of the Joeten Chalan Piao Plaza offers a bigger space in a prime location.

"We are confident that our customers will be able to enjoy the same level of service that they have come to know and expect at our bank," said Lou A. Leon Guerrero, president and board chair for Bank of Guam.

Leon Guerrero and other bank executives led government officials and business leaders in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially marked the Chalan Piao Branch grand opening.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Bank of Guam president and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero, fifth from right, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, fourth from right, lead bank executives and guests in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bank's Chalan Piao office yesterday. The new office, located at the Joeten Chalan Piao Plaza, was previously situated in San Antonio.

Bank of Guam was founded by Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, Lou's father. Its first branch in Guam opened on Dec. 10, 1972, and about eight years later, Bank of Guam expanded its roots to Saipan with the opening of the Susupe Branch on Oct. 1, 1980, and has since opened branches in Palau, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Majuro, and other islands throughout the Pacific.

Lou Leon Guerrero, in her remarks, said that Bank of Guam continues to remain an important part of the CNMI community. Their commitment to their clientele, she said, is a "key ingredient" in their success despite tough economic times.

"While the economic challenges to the CNMI are daunting, it is our firm belief that we must be able to maintain our presence in the community at the same level as we did when economic times were good," said Leon Guerrero. "Our commitment to the CNMI is one that is steadfast and we hope that by maintaining a service branch to meet the needs of our Saipan customers, we will play an integral part of helping our community achieve the economic heights we once enjoyed."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told dozens of Bank of Guam customers and supporters that he knows the Leon Guerrero family "very, very well" and that he is happy to know that they decided to become a tenant of the Tenorio or Joeten family of Saipan, which drew chuckles from the crowd.

"Congratulations to Bank of Guam for expanding their investment in the CNMI," said Fitial.

In an interview, Leon Guerrero said that the move is part of Bank of Guam's plans, which aims to make the institution more attuned to its growing number of technology-savvy clients by upgrading its online banking system, adopting mobile banking, and taking on the "paperless" or e-statement approach—all of which would provide clients with varying options.

Bank of Guam, she assured, will also see to it that "traditional customers" or those who prefer the personal approach by coming in to see their bankers will also be taken care of.

Tuesday's event was also an opportunity for Bank of Guam to announce their donation to three chosen beneficiaries as their way of giving back to the island community that has welcomed them with open arms.

"We believe that the value and the worth of a business is in how well you contribute and how well you commit to the community because it's the community's support that makes you successful," said Leon Guerrero.

Being a nurse in the past, Leon Guerrero said this profession is "really close to my heart" and thanked the members of the CNMI Nurses Association for their hard work in providing essential health care on the islands.

Leon Guerrero also commended the Karidat Social Services for ensuring that social needs of the public are met.

Leon Guerrero also noted the increasing number of individuals diagnosed with autism, thereby expressing hope that their contribution to the Autism Society of the CNMI will go toward its efforts to raise awareness and understanding of this condition.

"We at Bank of Guam thank the support of the community, the business and government leaders in this great island of the CNMI. We are here to help in whatever way we can to stimulate their economy, to help them in times of need," she concluded.

Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr. led yesterday's blessing of the new Bank of Guam branch. Guests were served refreshments following the ceremony.

Ex-CUC board chair OK'd to post bond

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero, who is facing charges of allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl, was allowed to post a property bond yesterday.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the property bond, described as a large piece of land, is in lieu of the $25,750 cash bail the court earlier imposed.

Govendo also prohibited the 62-year-old defendant from leaving the CNMI without court permission.

Defense attorney Brien Sers Nicholas asked to be given until 1pm today, Wednesday, to submit all the necessary papers for the property bond.

Arraignment will be on June 25 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal appeared for the government.

A police detective stated in his report that, according to the girl, Guerrero first sexually abused her when she was in ninth grade and that five other incidents happened after that. The latest incident allegedly happened on May 25, 2012.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently appointed Guerrero to the Marianas Public Land Trust board. The Senate has yet to confirm his nomination. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Marine monument council holds inaugural meeting

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of the Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council gathered yesterday for its inaugural meeting, marking a historic and defining milestone since the group's creation following the designation of one of the nation's largest marine monuments three years ago.

As interest and excitement build up, however, council members and regular folk are all too aware that it is just beginning and that the volume of work remains substantial, even as the first of the two-day meeting proved to be productive, according to participants.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed the advice-giving body composed of U.S. Department of Defense's Roy Tsutsui, U.S. Coast Guard's Morgan Roper, CNMI's Arnold Palacios, Benigno M. Sablan, and Dr. John Joyner.

The meeting, held at the Azucena II Room of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, also saw the attendance of officials and representatives of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In his opening remarks, Fitial laid down his expectations for the 96,714 square miles of the nation's most pristine marine environments, with the fulfillment of the six key components of the Marianas Monument Agreement and the promised "full traditional indigenous access and practices in the Islands Unit."

Fitial also sought the "full cooperation and support" of the national government for the conveyance up to 3 miles of nearshore submerged lands for all islands in the Commonwealth. He requested the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Department of Interior to "honor" their role in the agreement to develop provisions that would authorize mineral exploration and extraction and other activities that would bring in income for the CNMI.

"We have many difficult challenges facing us and I have instructed the [advisory council] members to immediately start work in achieving the monument vision mutually agreed to by the people of the Marianas and the Bush administration," said Fitial.

Part of the meeting was the election of council officials. Chosen were Sablan as chair, Joyner as vice chair, and Roy Tsutsui as secretary/treasurer. Palacios also officially received his appointment to the council yesterday.

Tuesday's meeting concluded with five action items that the council members will need to work on and report about today.

Superintendent Susan White of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Pacific Reefs said that the council was finally able to organize itself, although the process of finally convening the body took longer than expected.

"This is the foundation on which the rest of the advisory council will continue to operate," she said.

Lisa Ku'ulei Croft, deputy regional administrator for NOAA NMFS, said the council will be working on establishing the frequency of its meetings.

Sablan, for his part, said that with the inaugural council meeting comes the "beginning of understanding" of the importance of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

"We're moving forward to make our people not only understand but really appreciate the context of a proclamation of this magnitude and its advantages for many future generations," he added.

Palacios, who is also the secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, noted the need to engage the community in the planning and implementation of the management plan for the monument.

"We are certainly looking at the interest of the Commonwealth notwithstanding national interests," he said.

LACK

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with individuals who have the potential to serve on such boards and commissions."

For instance, the Healthcare Professions Licensing Board is required by law to have five members but currently has only one.

Its rules indicate that a quorum is a majority of members present, so the board has been functioning with only one member. But this is still subject to legal review.

The 111 board members and commissioners include the eight board members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Fitial abolished this board some six years ago through an executive order and has not reinstated it since then. He placed CUC under his control again in May 2012.

The NMI Retirement Fund, according to officials yesterday, lacks quorum because it only has two members when the law requires seven.

Fitial submitted two re-appointments to the Senate, which has yet to confirm them until the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April. The federal court dismissed the bankruptcy filing last week.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said yesterday that the EAGI panel has not received the required documents such as statement of financial interest, drug test receipt/drug test results and police clearance from the two re-appointees: Bernadita Palacios and Marian Tudela.

"We cannot schedule public hearings on their nominations without those documents. We cannot complete our investigations without those. It's the nominees' responsibility to comply with the requirements," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fitial administration plans to place the Fund under a state of emergency, and that includes removing the board of trustees. Cruz said such a plan to remove the board may be one of the reasons why compliance with requirements has taken longer than expected.

Demapan said the administration "conducts follow up efforts with the nominees requesting that their requirements get submitted."

"Once it is submitted, the Office of the Governor transmits it to the Legislature. Remember that the administration cannot dictate the turn-around time for documents such as financial statements and drug test results. These results come from off-island," the press secretary said.

No quorum

Some 30 personnel cases related to terminations, suspensions, and reprimands have yet to be decided on because the last time the Civil Service Commission had at least five members to make decisions was in 2008, the commission's acting director Andrew Orsini said yesterday.

Orsini said the Constitution requires seven members and at least five members deciding as one on personnel cases. Currently, the commission has only four members, chaired by Felix Fitial.

"This is a different commission. The Constitution requires that for every decision, it needs at least five members to make the same decision—whether it be in favor or not. Having four members, they can meet, but they cannot make decisions," Orsini said.

Orsini, who has been with the commission for over 15 years, said there have been instances when commissioners opted to decline appointments or re-appointments because of liability issues.

"For example, I think the current indemnification protection is only about $200,000. What if they're sued in their capacity for $1 million? Who's going to pay for the rest if the court rules in favor of the complainant?" he said.

Despite its lack of quorum, Orsini said CSC usually provides informal status conferences to see whether they can mediate between two entities. If the mediation does not work, they advise the parties whether they want to wait until the commission gets a quorum or if they want to go to court instead.

"I'd say there are about 30 cases waiting for a board decision including termination, suspension, and reprimand. In a nutshell, a lack of quorum deprives employees due process; they should be given a chance to be heard on actions against them and rectify those actions if necessary. I believe the court would just like these matters to be settled at the commission level rather than in court," he added.

Demapan said the Civil Service Commission did have a quorum until the expiration of one member's term in January 2012. He confirmed the difficulty of appointing people to serve on boards, especially on the Civil Service Commission.

"Several nominees selected by the governor have declined for reasons such as health or other personal matters. In addition, there are criteria that govern the selection of nominees. For example, a nominee for CSC cannot be an active government employee," Demapan said.

The Board of Professional Licensing has only one member, Greg Castro, representing Tinian. The law requires this board to have five members, and at least three to have a quorum.

"This board hasn't had a quorum since at least December 2011," executive director Florence Sablan said.

Sablan said a lack of quorum means the board cannot renew applicants' licenses for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and real estate appraisers, among other things.

Demapan said the governor's nominations are pending at the Legislature but the Senate has yet to receive the required documents.

MPLT board of trustees

The Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees has three members right now, meeting the quorum requirement. The law requires five members. The board is currently headed by former speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero.

Fitial's nominee to the MPLT board, Francisco Q. Guerrero, has yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

Guerrero, a former CUC board chair, was arrested on Monday for alleged molestation of a minor.

Fitial "is expected to make a decision on this matter" as early as today, Demapan said, when asked whether the governor will withdraw Guerrero's nomination.

The Senate EAGI Committee chairman said that as far as his panel is concerned, he would request the administration to withdraw Guerrero's nomination at this time.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said this is a matter that the Senate leadership and the EAGI panel have to discuss.

Full boards

The Commonwealth Development Authority and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. each have full boards at seven members each, CDA and NMHC offices said yesterday.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board also has a full board of seven.

Other boards

The Board of Parole is supposed to have seven members by law, but currently has five that meets the quorum, said parole officer Mel Sakisat. The Board of Parole's current chair is R.B. Camacho.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is supposed to have nine board members. It currently has seven, more than meeting the quorum. The current chair is Marian Aldan-Pierce. Of the two vacancies, one awaits the governor's appointment and one is to be elected by members.

The CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board is required to have nine members. It has six members right now led by chair Kodep Uludong Ogumoro.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board is supposed to have seven members but only has six right now, more than meeting the quorum. It is chaired by Joe Lifoifoi.

The law provides for seven members of the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents. It currently has six members chaired by former judge Juan T. Lizama.

The Commonwealth Election Commission has six members right now. The law provides for nine. Its executive director, Robert Guerrero, said yesterday that one member's term will expire in October. The midterm election is on Nov. 6.

The Public Utilities Commission just recently got three members, the quorum for a five-member PUC board.

CUC

From Page 1

based on the what's happening on the ground.

"We are pleased that we could pass along the lower rates, which are reflective of the changes in the markets. This action shows the importance of CUC having the flexibility to make monthly adjustments in the LEAC to reflect current conditions," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Even without the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC can make the necessary changes to its LEAC because the commission's January ruling allows an automatic adjustment of the LEAC rate, so long as it does not exceed 4.5 percent of the current rate.

Warren said that CUC is closely monitoring its data on a daily basis and assured that it is following all the rules that the utilities commission set up at its January ruling.

Saipan Tribune learned that no filing is needed for the new adjustment and the new rate will be subject to a full review by the utilities commission once it reconvenes.

The new LEAC tariff is composed of the following elements: LEAC fuel and lube oil ($0.27864); volatility element ($0.01254); regulatory and technical support ($0.00123); reconciliation element ($0.00807); and allowance for doubtful accounts ($0.01135).

20-CENT

From Page 1

cially among those whose work hours have been drastically cut.

"It's been very difficult for us to make ends meet. Our work hours are now down to 25 hours a week instead of the normal 40 hours. People ask us, 'how do you survive that?' Every cent counts. So every price reduction is a big help. Every day, I drive from Chalan Kanoa to Garapan and back. My budget for gas can now be stretched a bit and I hope there will be more price cuts," Geronimo told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he spends some $70 on gas every week. "But when it hit over $5.15, my $70 was only good for less than a week. It's really hard for us," he added.

In Guam, Mobil gas stations dropped their pump prices by 25 cents a gallon yesterday.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, welcomed the price cut, adding that it will be good not only for motorists but also for utility consumers.

"Every time fuel cost goes down, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is obligated to reduce their fuel cost for their consumers. Last year, CUC had to credit back to consumers some $6 million because fuel prices were lower than their estimates. I also hope gas prices will continue to go down," he said.

Ayuyu, who hails from Rota, said he hopes Rota and Tinian pump prices will also follow suit soon.

"There's just no excuse for Mobil not to soon lower their prices on Rota and Tinian, too," the senator added.

Rota has the dubious distinction of having the most expensive gas on American soil. As of yesterday, Rota's Sasanhaya Service Station was selling regular gas for $5.90 a gallon and $6.70 a gallon for diesel.

Oil hovered below $84 a barrel Tuesday in Asia, wavering near an eight-month low. Crude fell below $82 Monday, the lowest since October. Expectations that a global economic slowdown will reduce demand for crude dragged prices down 23 percent in the last month.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notices for any gas price change. ***(With AP)***

23 positions up for grabs at CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new model that seeks to improve the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s revenue collection was bared yesterday, but chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said they will have to hire more people to realize the desired results.

Under the new plan, the corporation needs to hire a revenue cycle administrator who will oversee the functions of four major sections: patient financial services, billings, collections, and medical records. This administrator will report to the CEO and have a direct link to the hospital's chief financial officer.

To make the plan effective, 23 posts have to be filled.

Three cashiers need to be hired for the patient financial services section, which already has four employees. Two need to be added to the three existing registration employees. Two more need to be hired for the admission section, which has only two personnel.

The billings section needs one more coder to complete the six slots, Babauta said, while three billers need to be added to the four existing billers. Two claim specialists will also have to be hired.

The collection unit, which has only two accountants, needs three more, Babauta said, while two need to be hired as coordinators for benefits and labor clearances.

The medical records section already has five personnel but needs one more.

Babauta emphasized the critical role these personnel will have in the survival of the hospital.

The new revenue cycle management model was conceptualized after the termination of the contract of International Consulting Services.

Babauta described the billings and collection department as the heart and soul of the hospital. He emphasized the need to take this department "very seriously" because it is critically tied to every function, operation and survival of the hospital.

Babauta aims to make the new model functional within the year and vowed to work with the corporation board to make it happen.

Mafnas steps down as SHEFA board chair

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board chair Jose C. Mafnas stepped down yesterday, fulfilling his promise to occupy the post for only a year.

Mafnas will, however, remain on the board as a member.

Elected as new board chair yesterday is incumbent vice chair Josephine Sablan.

Vina Saures will keep her post as board secretary and treasurer.

Besides Mafnas, Sablan, and Saures, other board members are John Tenorio, and Ursula Aldan.

The board also welcomed yesterday SHEFA's new administrator, Merissa Seman-Rasa, who replaced Henry Hofschneider.

Hofschneider moved back to the Saipan Mayor's Office. A full-time employee of the Office of the Mayor, Hofschneider served as part-time SHEFA administrator but was paid by the mayor's office.

The board disclosed that Seman-Rasa's salary, along with one permanent full-time employee, will be paid directly from the SHEFA budget.

In her first meeting with the board, Seman-Rasa provided a brief report about the most pressing issues and concerns that she felt should be addressed. She highlighted three areas that she wants prioritized: the application procedures and check processing to make sure that awards are released in a timely manner; record keeping; and student tracking, which comes with compliance, repayment, and collection.

To date, 25 checks for scholars are still pending for release: two for fall 2010; four for fall 2011; and 19 for spring 2012. Seman-Rasa estimates the total value of pending awards at $51,100, with no concrete information as to when it will be released. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and other social and human service providers will honor our citizens who are living with and beyond cancer. June 1 to June 8 will be observed as the 2012 Commonwealth/National Cancer Survivors Week-Day and will host events throughout the week. We urge all cancer survivors to join in this joyous celebration of life.
The theme for this week's celebration is:

"Rainbow of Hope"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 6	7:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	KKMP Interview, Red Room John Gonzales Talk Show
Friday, June 8	5:30 p.m.	Cancer Survivors Support Group Gala, Raraina Room, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan

This week provides an opportunity for all of our people living with a history of cancer to connect with each other, celebrate milestones, and recognize the healthcare providers, family, and friends who have supported them along the way.

We encourage all cancer survivors to wear 2012 Survivors shirts to all events.
For more information, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or send email to cca@ccamarianas.org

KNOWLEDGE HOPE INSPIRATION

This ad was brought to you by the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE NMC 1981

Cash for College

Step-By-Step Workshop to Help You Find Thousands of $$$ For College this Fall 2012 Semester!

Attend Northern Marianas College's FREE Cash for College Workshop and receive personal assistance in completing forms for:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid (SHEFA)
- CNMI Scholarship
- TEACH Grant
- Other Financial Aid

Saturday, June 16, 2012
NMC's Building A

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by any time between 9:00am and 3:00pm.

Although not required for entry to the workshop, please bring the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript (3 Official Copies)
3. Tax Forms: Your or your parents' signed 2011 1040 form (2011 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2010 and 2011 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)

The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through funds from the U.S. DOE, College Access Challenge Grant

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-007

SECURITY SERVICES
FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed Bids for **Security Services** for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF) on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after June 06, 2012 at the Office of the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Lower Base, Saipan.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with § **70-30.3-205** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 09:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on June 25, 2012. The prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the MSWF facility. Questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time July 02, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-007."** For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Bid**. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 16, 2012, and must be received no later July 26, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., local time, July 30, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, on July 16, 2012.

The successful bidder to this IFB will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § **70-30.3-245** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this IFB shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the bidder awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfections in any bids in the best interest of the Government. All bids shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Ex-guard gets 15 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday slapped a 15-year prison term against Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, the former detention guard at the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility who has pleaded guilty to enticing a minor to have sex with him.

"No one is above the law, even to law enforcement," said Manglona in sentencing the 27-year-old Fitial.

Fitial has been in custody since his arrest on June 11, 2010. He was given credit for time served. He was immediately remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service.

Although Fitial described his acts as stupid in a statement to the court, Manglona said she finds his word of apology "hollow and made without fear."

Manglona said the 15-year prison sentence is appropriate considering the seriousness of Fitial's crimes, and to promote respect of the law and afford deterrence.

Citing the victim's written statement to the court, Manglona said that Fitial had sex with a minor and exploited two male wards at the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility.

Manglona said that aggravating circumstances and the vulnerability of the victims allowed the court to adjust the sentencing guideline range upward.

The U.S. Probation had determined that the sentencing range is between 87 months and 108 months but Manglona recalculated this to between 108 months and 135 months.

Fitial was ordered to register as a sex offender and, upon completing his sentence, to perform 200 hours of community service. Upon release from prison, he will be placed on probation for five years. He was also ordered to pay restitution in an amount to be determined by the U.S. Probation Office.

Fitial pleaded guilty on April 19, 2011, to a count of enticement of a minor to engage in sex acts with him but not to actual sexual penetration.

At the time, the girl was only 13 years old. Fitial committed the criminal acts while he was a guard at the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility.

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco stated yesterday that the U.S. Attorney's Office, Department of Justice, is committed to protecting the civil rights of the most vulnerable—children.

"Those who abuse and exploit our children and violate the very trust placed in them will be held accountable and prosecuted," Limtiaco said in a statement.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto prosecuted the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. handled the sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and detectives from the Department of Public Safety conducted the investigation.

Court-appointed counsel Michael Evangelista said he will be discussing with Fitial what other course of action they would take. Evangelista had recommended six years in prison and four years of home detention.

Lemons, who had recommended 10 years in prison as part of the plea agreement, said he has no comments on the sentencing.

Lemons said the important thing from their point is that the victims "won't have to live this thing again and they can get on with their lives."

"The family [of the victims] is okay with it [plea agreement] so we struck the deal," Lemons said.

According to court records, between October 2009 and February 2010, Fitial, who was then a guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, made telephone calls to a residence, during which one or more of these calls Fitial had a conversation of a sexual nature with a female 13 to 14 years old. It was allegedly Fitial's intent to get the girl to meet with him.

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Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

The Green Gala

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance would like to extend our "THANK YOU" to all our sponsors and volunteers for making our Green Gala a successful event.

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We also would like to thank all the individuals and companies that purchased the Green Gala tickets. Thank you for your support.

Saipan assured of no rolling outages

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the emergency situation brought on by its many fiscal challenges, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assures that no power interruptions and outages are expected in the coming days.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said yesterday that the utilities company has enough power on standby and is continuously taking steps to reduce operational costs to stretch every dollar.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently declared a state of emergency at CUC and the agency has since then been receiving questions about the stability of Saipan's power supply.

"At this time CUC does not anticipate any power supply interruptions. However, since CUC has no working capital or reserves, it must rely fully on customers making timely payments on bills," Fletcher said.

To date, CUC has about $21.7 million in collectibles from its customers, including government and private sectors.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that current loads are running at around 35 megawatts, with a solid standby and spinning reserve of 3.20MW as of June 1. CUC recorded a peak load of 34.2MW on June 1.

He disclosed that the agency is taking steps to reduce costs for customers by shifting power generation loads from Power Plant 4 to Power Plant 1, where recent investments have increased engine efficiency so less diesel fuel is needed to run those engines.

Also, he said, steps have been taken to reduce vehicle miles driven so that CUC can save on fleet gasoline.

CUC has also been finding different approaches to energy intensive processes such as wastewater treatment to save money. According to Fletcher, this fiscal year alone, CUC reduced its energy consumption by over 15 percent in its water and wastewater divisions by changing its equipment cycles and by repairing over 400 leaks in the water system.

CUC has also been seeing operational improvements. For example, the water and wastewater crews were recently split into two operating groups, each working four- to 10-hour days per week. The staff will be working every day of the week, with the two operating shifts overlapping once per week. This means better vehicle use and reduced overtime and emergency call-outs on weekends.

"While the power plant crews have historically worked 24-hour rotating shifts, we will be looking at operations in power transmission and distribution services to see if efficiencies can be attained similar to water operations. In addition, CUC is looking to cut some unfilled positions that had been slated for hiring," added Fletcher.

45 Tottotville homeowners seek settlement

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos is conducting a mediation hearing in connection with the lawsuits filed by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and 45 Tottotville homeowners against the contractor and the designer/construction manager of the housing project.

Inos was set to inspect one of the housing units in Tottotville Monday afternoon.

Joaquin Torres, counsel for 10 homeowners, said they are trying to see if they can settle the lawsuits. "If we don't settle, then we do closing arguments and then the judge is going to make a decision. That's the arbitration portion," Torres said.

Torres said the parties gave their opening statements Monday morning.

Testifying Monday as an expert witness, Efrain Camacho, president of EFC Engineers and Architects Corp., cited many design defects of the project and his recommendations.

The 45 homeowners' lawsuits were filed in 2006 against SSFM International Inc., NMHC, Telesource CNMI Inc., and Telebond Insurance Corp. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IN SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. ABDUL KADER Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0212
vs.	)	
LAMELLA BLESAM Respondent	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505775, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

KAGMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
we are here to HELP you
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For more information, please call the Saipan District Office at 323-2647.
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Your kid's creative, social and learning play center!

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its general membership luncheon meeting today, June 6, 2012, at the Saipan World Resort Hotel. On the agenda is the Chamber's annual college scholarship awards presentation where five high school students will be receiving their individual $2,000 cash scholarship awards. SCC has made these annual contributions for the past two decades, as a way to assist local students in attaining their own goal of a higher education.

PSS Commissioner Rita A. Sablan will be the keynote speaker, with an additional presentation by Geri Willis on the CNMI Northern Mariana College's student apprenticeship program.

Luncheon at World Resort begins at 11:30am, while the meeting begins at 12pm sharp. Luncheon is $20 for Chamber members, and $30 for guests and the general public. ***(SCC)***

UOG students to attend SHRM annual conference

Four University of Guam Human Resources Management Students will be attending the Society for Human Resources Management's Annual Conference and Exposition and the SHRM Annual Student Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from June 22 to 27, 2012.

The students are all members of the University of Guam SHRM Student Chapter. Attending the conferences are president Michael Conner, treasurer Sheena Jose, and members Phillip Delos Santos and Shiella Jose. Faculty adviser Dr. Richard Colfax will also attend. Among featured conference speakers this year are former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell, and renowned journalist Tom Brokaw. ***(UOG)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting set

This is to invite members of the MHS Class of 1983 to our next general meeting on June 15, 2012, Friday, at the Garapan Beach Road pavilion. You may contact Tonnei Camach at 483-9665 for more details. ***(PR)***

Cancer survivors' stories today on *John Gonzales Live*

John Gonzales Live will feature today, June 6, 2012, the topic Cancer Survivors: Stories of Hope, Part 2. Guests include cancer survivors Claire Kosack, Edward T. Salas, and Cesar L. Dumatol. The show will air from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Channel 14 and will rebroadcast on June 11 and 12, 2012. *John Gonzales Live* also rebroadcasts worldwide on www.betelnutradio.com. Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

ALAI Summer Camp

For children 4 –15 years old includes an array of activities such as

World of Music and Songs, Multi-Cultural and Modern Dance, Arts & Crafts, Drawing & Painting, Origami, Swimming, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Educational Computer Activities, ESL Classes, Science Projects, Social Studies Excursions, English and Math Enrichment.

9am-2pm Academic and Arts
3pm-4pm Sports & Recreation

Four Weeks:
K4-K5 $330; 1st $350; 2nd–9th $480

Five Weeks:
K4-K5 $410; 1st $430; 2nd–9th $600

Reservation/Registration: $25
Student Insurance: $15
Discount per sibling: 10%
Lunch: $5/day (optional)

Registration Deadline June 11, 2012

A minimum of 6 students to open one grade level class and 8 students for a combined grade level class for program to begin.

ADVANCED LANGUAGE & ACADEMIC INSTITUTE

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June 13 –July 18, 2012
FULL DAY: 9:00am –4:00pm

Summer Academic & Activity Camp is an opportunity for students to receive intensive instruction, training and practice in sports, organization skills, technical development and progress. Trained undergraduate and graduate teachers, tutors and counselors provide one-on-one support to your child with specific program goals:

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2) **Develop techniques in sports and game play.**
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4) **Create works of art, sing and dance.**
5) **Swim, snorkel, hike, pass, shoot and score.**
6) **HAVE FUN!!!**

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 6, 2000

Fitial: Enforce anti-littering laws

Alarmed by the growing problem of littering on the islands, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has prodded the police to enforce regulations that prohibit residents to throw away their garbage just about anywhere. He cited for instance that public beaches have become dirty as heaps of trash are left behind by some people, especially during weekends. This is particularly damaging to the tourism industry, a vital part of the CNMI economy, and could discourage visitors to come to the islands because of this environmental eyesore.

Funding for 2 new high schools on Saipan OK'd

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed three new laws yesterday, including appropriation of $10.5 million for construction of two new high schools on Saipan as well as creation of a special account for ambulance fees collected by the Department of Public Health. He endorsed the plan by the Board of Education to construct two new high schools instead of just one, which he said will allow for better environment for the students, as well as for their parents. "The proposed sites for the schools at Koblerville and Kagman will reduce busing and commuting time for the students and or parents, as the students will be attending school closer to their homes," he said in signing Public Law 12-5.

Jun. 6, 2001

PSS losing staff

A staggering 20 percent of the Public School System's teaching faculty are expected to leave the system this year. It may mean that PSS may not be able to regain lost staffing if funding woes persist. PSS employees exiting the system is numbered at 80, comprised of teachers that have decided to resign and retire. A portion of the total number consists of staff that the PSS administration has opted not to keep due to poor job performance. Meanwhile, an additional 35 teachers are also up for transfer within the system in anticipation of the opening of new school campuses in December 2001.

Asbestos investigation only for DLRS

There will be no mandatory investigation for other worn out buildings built in the early 60's despite concerns of possible asbestos contamination. Health officials disclosed that the ongoing investigation will solely focus on the complaints filed by Division of Land Registration and Survey office. Public Health acting Secretary Pete Untalan said constructors of buildings established in 1960's were believed to have used asbestos pipes and other building materials with magnesium silicates.

Jun. 6, 2002

Chamber touts small biz's contributions

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce rallied behind small- and medium-scale businesses, which reportedly contribute 39 percent of the government's annual earnings. This, as the business organization asked the CNMI government to foster economic growth through the empowerment of small businesses in the Northern Marianas. Chamber officials urged members of the Legislature to resume the roundtable discussion with the private sector, in order to pave the road for more investor- and business-friendly measures. Chamber President Richard A. Pierce said the business community has been hardly asked for inputs regarding any of the proposed measure introduced at the 13th CNMI Legislature that may have direct or indirect effect on the private sector.

Methodists to support CNMI delegate status in Congress

JoAnn Yoon Fukomoto , a member of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, paid Governor Juan N. Babauta a courtesy call Tuesday to appraise him of the Methodist work on Peace with Justice in Southern California and the Pacific, which includes the Marianas. Babauta, as Washington CNMI representative, remembered a call he made on the General Secretary of the Church and Society Board to enlist the Church's support in recognizing the right of the CNMI to be duly represented with committee voice rights like the other Insular Territories in the United States Congress. Fukomoto, accompanied by Rev. Jaime R. Vergara, resident Pastor of the Immanuel United Methodist Church of Saipan, pledge their support in bringing the matter formally to the legislative bodies of the United Methodist Church, as well as informally, to the Methodist members of the US Congress.

US Senate to take up submerged lands bill 'soon'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said his bill conveying 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI will "soon" be taken up by the U.S. Senate, seven months since the U.S. House of Representatives passed it by a unanimous vote.

"The submerged lands bill, HR 670, will soon move in the Senate and I'm hoping the president will sign it into law," Sablan said in an interview.

He said they reserved the bill number "670," the CNMI's area code, for the submerged lands legislation. HR 670, he said, provides equity to the CNMI people because the Northern Marianas is the only one among U.S. coastal areas that does not control its own submerged lands.

The Fitial administration also supports the bill. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had said the CNMI should be afforded the same rights granted to all coastal American states under the Submerged Lands Act, which includes 27 percent of all federal rents, royalties, and revenues paid annually to coastal states and full right to 3 miles of submerged lands.

Sablan said he plans to attach to this submerged lands bill his other bill that would amend the definition of "state" to include the CNMI as among those eligible to apply for the State Trade and Export Promotion, or STEP, grant.

In March, the U.S. Small Business Administration cancelled a STEP grant that awarded the CNMI $1.022 million, after it determined that the CNMI is not eligible to apply for such a grant. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws takes center stage this month

On May 31, 2012, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a proclamation declaring the month of June as Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Month. This event was backed by many government agencies and community stakeholders who were present to support the effort.

Inos, who was the acting governor then, acknowledged that 2011 juvenile crime data shows that minors consuming alcohol remains one of the highest offenses committed by juveniles in the CNMI, which often leads to more serious delinquent offenses.

In 2011-2012, the CNMI Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Task Force conducted a series of compliance check operations. Out of 22 establishments checked, 12 violators were arrested, cited, and prosecuted.

"Although the task force has made significant progress toward enforcing the sale of alcohol to minors, underage drinking continues to be a major community problem. Therefore, we need the community's continued support and active involvement in addressing this issue," said David R. Maratita, director of the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division.

Sgt. Jose Saures of the Crime Prevention Unit expressed his sincere appreciation to Inos and extended his gratitude for the task force's efforts and to the participants during the proclamation. Saures also commended Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) for introducing House Bill 17-17 that will help strengthen the CNMI's Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program.

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar said that the current Alcoholic Beverage Control Act is very antiquated and he strongly supports overhauling the current laws that do not meet current business demands. He explained that the current fines involving offenses for selling alcohol to minors is only a slap on the wrist and requires more stringent measures in order to help deter repeated violations.

Others said the task force needs to work more with the community because minors have easy access to alcohol during family gatherings and community functions. Adults should also practice separating alcoholic beverages from other beverages, and not letting their children get their drinks for them. With everything starting at home, efforts should be made to start the change at home.

June is a time at the end of the school year when minors are more prone to consuming alcohol. Therefore, throughout the month of June, there will be several events sponsored by the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program. These events include EUDL town hall meetings, youth volleyball and softball tournaments, compliance check operations, and other activities.

For more information, contact Maratita from ABTC at 664-3065 or Vincent Camacho from CJPA at 664-4551. To report a complaint regarding stores selling alcohol to minors or minors consuming alcohol, call or text the EUDL hotline at 483-1821. All complaints received are confidential. The legal drinking age in the CNMI is 21. Do not provide alcohol to minors. ***(Office of the Governor)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DPW/ED-056

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 21, 2012 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THETHE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERGY LOCATED AT THE SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO 4woodchippers@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 05, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME. AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, LOCATED IN MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON JUNE 11, 2012 TO commercialwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp OR FACSIMILE TO (670) 664-4488

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO, ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY
/S/ THELMA B. INOS, DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
(MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF GROUNDS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for ground maintenance services of the International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services of the Saipan International Airport as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, **May 16th, 2012**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the RFP shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "**Proposal for Ground Maintenance Services (mowing, trimming and cleaning of grounds of the Saipan International Airport**"). One(1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 15th, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) available resources (funds and ground work tools and equipment) to accomplish project, (2) price, (3) similar projects completed,(4) sufficiency of workers and their categories, (5)list of pending and ongoing projects and (6) Valid CNMI Business license.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., **Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director's Office at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director
Date: 5/9/2012

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2547

ANNOUNCEMENT
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

May 15, 2012

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for your organization to participate in a Summer Program Grant. The grant is open to all community-base programs offering Summer Programs or activities to all school aged children between the ages 6 years to 13 years old. Eligible proposals may receive up to $20,000.00. For this grant, a total of 4 awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. All funds related to this grant must be expended no later than September 30, 2012.

CCDF Summer Program Application packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Completed Applications should be submitted in the same address on or before Monday, June 18, 2012 at 12:00pm. Faxed and emailed proposals will not be reviewed.

Should you have any questions regarding this announcement please do not hesitate to contact Vince Rabauliman, CCDF Administrative Manager or Maribel S.D. Loste, CCDF Program Administrator at 664-2575.

Approved for distribution:
/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
Secretary, DCCA
Date: May 15, 2012

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. ___

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A verdict, of sorts

If jurors had been asked to decide whether John Edwards was a cheating lowlife, it would have taken them 10 minutes. He fathered a child with a former campaign worker while his wife was terminally ill, then lied about it long and loud while campaigning for president of the United States. OK, five minutes.

What jurors were asked, though, was whether Edwards broke the law by using nearly $1 million in campaign contributions to cover up that affair. It took them nine days to find him not guilty on one of six counts. A judge declared a mistrial on the other five.

It's a wholly unsatisfying verdict, especially for those who wanted to see the defendant drawn and quartered. But let's not bother with Season 2. This reality show has been one big flop.

For one thing, it suffered from lack of character development. The 101-year-old heiress named "Bunny," who routed secret payments to an Edwards aide to keep the mistress hidden, was too frail for even a cameo appearance. The billionaire Texas lawyer who paid for private jets, luxury hotels and a rented mansion in California was already dead. The Other Woman wasn't called to testify. The defendant decided not to take the stand.

The only sympathetic characters were Edwards' grown daughter and his parents—a constant but mostly silent courtroom presence.

A promising storyline involving the campaign aide and his wife, who funneled the money to Edwards' mistress while keeping some for themselves, was never fully developed.

As for the plot—well, jurors couldn't decipher it, and they tried a lot harder than the rest of us. They sat through 17 days of testimony and sifted through 500 exhibits in the jury room, including piles of phone and financial records. They weren't trying to figure out if Edwards had betrayed his family and his political supporters. Their job was to decide whether he knew about the secret payments and, if so, whether he knew they were illegal.

We can't fault the jury for failing to agree on something the government can't seem to figure out. The Federal Election Commission, which audited the campaign accounts, didn't consider the payments campaign contributions. The Justice Department did.

The law defines campaign contributions as payments meant to influence the outcome of an election. Prosecutors argued that Edwards' supporters knew his affair would hurt his candidacy and were willing to cough up big bucks to help him hide it from voters. That's a crime.

Edwards' attorneys argued that the payments were gifts, which he used to hide the affair from his wife. Perfectly legal.

Jurors managed to sort things out on one count.

Prosecutors might have done a better job convincing them if they'd rehearsed their argument in previous cases. But this was the first time they'd charged such behavior as a crime. It was clearly a reach. That didn't stop a lot of people from hoping it would succeed anyway, but it's time to drop the case.

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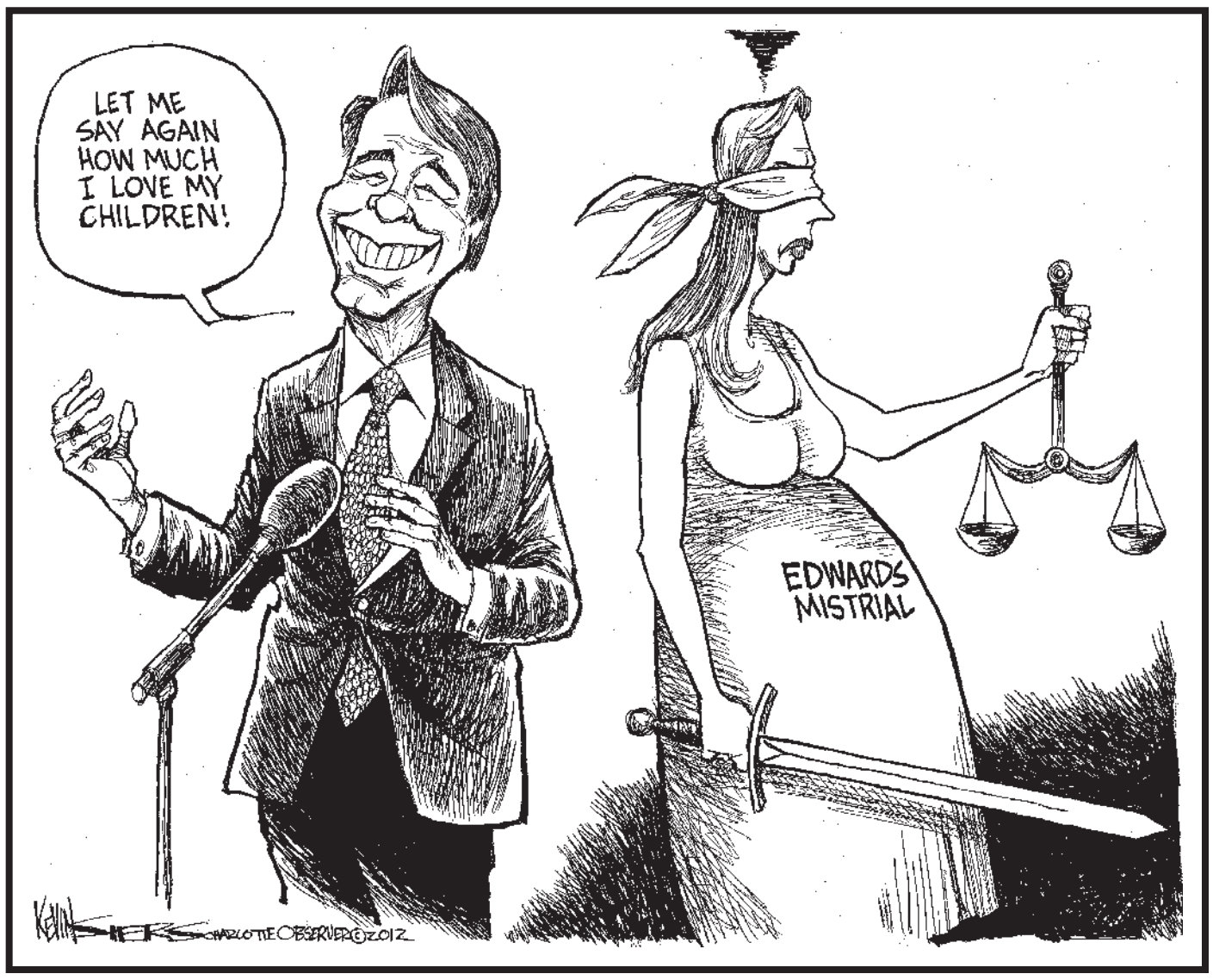


OWS

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We thought that Occupy Wall Street was just a flash in the pan, a fad of the political liberal left, as the tea party was a mostly a conservative reactionary right-wing response, serious as well as knee-jerk, to the rapid changes in the world.

Well, it has not been the case. Started Sept. 17, 2011, down Zucotti Park in Manhattan, OWS' poster with the iconic dancer on top of Wall Street's "bull" has since become a classic. Supported by Adbuster's focus on social and financial inequality prevalent not only in the industrial and financial world but elsewhere, OWS followed the Spanish protests began earlier in May and the Arab spring in Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, and Syria, with expectations for ripple effects in Iran and China.

If for anything, the OWS interactive influence to other broad-based movements around the world is unmistakable. Its metaphorical slogan of "we are the 99 percent" has universal appeal, never mind which statistics the numerical equation came from. We even had the press calling the Saipan vigil on immigration earlier as an Occupy cousin. While organizers were not intentionally relating it to the OWS impetus, the reality of Beach Road coming alive was not missed.

Canada has grown legally belligerent, legislating fines against protesters, and the current standoff in Montreal between students and school officials on tuition fee raise is getting confrontational and ugly. Barcelona's airport cleaning crew are throwing trash to protest pay cuts.

That the "1 percent" is not taking things lying down is clearly shown in how money is used to influence the outcome of popular elections. The Romney vs. Obama contest in U.S. politics is a clear delineation between the financiers and a populist incumbent.

Even China is not immune to this dichotomy. Recently deposed member of the Politburo Bo Xilai, erstwhile mayor of Dalian, governor of Liaoning, and most recently mayor of the national municipality of Chongqing, represents the taizidang (princelings), children of revolutionaries who "inherited" choice positions and derived status that favor a rapid economic growth regardless of distributive consequences. Opposed are the tuanpai, ideological former Youth League members who keep an eye on the broad benefits that need to accrue to peasants, workers, and the general proletariat. Current President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao belong to this latter category. The upcoming president and new premier represent each of the sectors, a balancing act worth following.

OWS did the world a favor in re-examining the influence of the Bilderberg Conference of Europe and America's "princelings." Bilderberg is the name of a Netherlands hotel where the first royalty-initiated meeting in 1954 was held to stem the rising anti-Americanism in Europe.

Intended to keep a balanced view of both the liberal and conservative sectors of the Western industrialized societies, it evolved into a gathering of invitation-only elites. Its attendees are primarily bankers, politicians, and directors of corporations from Western Europe and the United States.

Rethinking the fundamental economic structure of the planet is a favorite pastime of the "development" set. A number of NGOs and think tanks tinker with structural models. Economist David Korten of the '80s When Corporations Rule the World fame, and chairman of the board of Yes magazine, facilitates a refreshing group of thinkers and activists who see hope in local civil sectors even as dismayed heavyweights paint doomsday scenarios, from climate warming, population explosion, and the addiction to perpetual war.

Not an altogether insignificant contribution to that needed reflection is an expanded political tract, a call to deep thought and action, the book The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy.

Contrasted to traditional modes of planning that relies on "what is absent," usually expressed as a "lack of" but really a hidden proposal, The Road identifies existing contradictions, concrete and imagined blocks, and offers ways to deal with them, including methods on how determined groups might come out with appropriate and effective set of actions in their own situations.

The method leads to concrete strategic thinking rather than to utopian dreaming, usually seen in glossy documents in shelves of planning and implementing bodies. It avoids the traffic of ideational generalities. Rather, it lends itself as a readable study guide to serious civic and religious small circles. Amazon.com offers both the hard copy and the e-book editions.

OWS has not been content in just being a protest movement. While it unsettles the comfortable, it also affirms the truth that the immediately doable does not excite, nor is it a source of enthusiasm and passion. Mr. Z of Facebook himself, though hardly an OWS figure, holds disestablishment hackatons to engage the imagination and invite creativity.

OWS is a force to reckon with, and if the Bilderberg Conference has evolved into an influential defense mechanism to protect the established well-to-do, OWS invites a local celebrative approach to change.

A pirouette atop a snorting bull, anyone?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Consent of Fund's active members

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Active members of the Fund want their contributions. It's their money! They exercised their rights to secure it, to no avail. Last-ditch effort to do so failed when legislators didn't secure the required votes to override veto of enabling legislation.

Appalling how political demagogues cavalierly impose their totalitarian impulse to control active members' money, saying, "We know what's best for you." At the same time, they're oblivious to the glaring fact that they've failed to resuscitate the now bankrupt pension system. It's marked with 32 years of treating the Fund like a fiscal leper to ensure it stays insolvent. In spite of its glaring failure, it retains the persistent folly that it's okay to sink the entire NMI into bankruptcy. I mean, the litany of failures include the Fund, CHC, and CUC, among others.

The demise of the Fund is their trophy that should be on display this coming 4th of July celebration in Garapan. Yep! It's autograph time!

It's true that active members can buy into an annuity from the U.S. Social Security Administration. They can make this "purchase" by using their savings to pay current expenses and delaying claiming to get a higher monthly benefit at an older age. The savings used is the "price" and the increase in monthly benefits is the annuity it "buys." But a meeting of the minds to secure active members' consent is the missing link. The tug-of-war therefore centers on demagogues trying to dispose what isn't theirs, as though authorized to do so by members. It's presumptuous at best, ludicrous at worse.

The issue, therefore, must go back to the drawing board to secure authorization for purposes of representation in buying into an annuity of the SSA. I understand it's a better deal than the more expensive ones in private insurance firms. But it has to come from the "consent of the governed."

This end of the gridlock is the easier side of the issue. It's the fate of current retirees once the Ponzi scheme ceases to exist. Where would the NMI government get the funds to ensure consistent payment of annuities? We can begin by paying up unpaid employer's contribution to the tune of $330 million. Pension payment requires some $90 million annually in local funds.

The Hawaii federal district court's interpretation of "instrumentality" grants the local government basically everything, including a decision to arbitrarily reduce pension benefits or not to pay overdue obligations or both. It's now in the hands of demagogues that make it very unsettling. Figures don't lie, politicians do! Take a quick glimpse at the decision to forego paying its share into the Fund for six years now.

Too, none of the saviors of demagoguery is equipped (education and experience) with the critical financial analysis needed to bring reforms to an arcane pension plan in order that it stays solvent. It's an exercise in the display of obsolescence and irrelevance of exhausted and hollowed rhetoric we now dispose like used cotton balls. Can we honestly trust them after 32 years of purposeful negligence and failure of fiduciary responsibility? What other lame answers have you got after 32 years of sleeping on the job?

■■■

No longer darling of investments

There were days, my friend, when we had basically everything we needed under the sun. Those bright days have slowly dimmed. It's fearfully dark everywhere! Bright days have disappeared into the receding sunset. There's nothing but the wrap of grayish black clouds out west.

No one knows when the break of dawn on investments would rise and shine once more like we used to know it. The water that once floated our boat has equally sunk it, too.

NMI is no longer the darling of investment of the Land of the Rising. Japan and others have taken an exodus into the sunset in recent past. Gone! By arrogance or ignorance, we've severed what was supposed to have been lasting partnerships. It disintegrated into the Ring of Fire.

We stand dazed at the "what might have been" had we said "no" to mañana.

Gone are the days when the apparel industry raked in some $1.2 billion annually. Residual businesses that were established to support it have also gone home.

Gone are the days of opulence, replaced by heavy decline in revenues. We're still boasting lamely with tails tucked between our legs. It's called dystopia—a place where nothing works.

Gone are the days when we supported government operations with locally raised revenues. Did we speak a bit too early (in 1993) ridding the CNMI of U.S. grant funds for operations?

Gone are the days of a generous U.S. Congress. It's taken the CNMI off its "darlings list," too. Congress isn't ready to pay for our profligacy and not with a $5 trillion deficit. The level of anxiety is high while everybody's lost confidence in government.

If today is the future, what's ours?

Well, it's clear we're no longer the darling of Japan and Asian countries. Uncle Sam isn't so generous these days too. But it's good to quiz him if it isn't equally his responsibility to help, given that he too participated in the ruination of the local economy via punitive and stifling laws and regulations.

■■■

Miscellany

With bankruptcy engulfing the CNMI, how do we navigate the horrendous cost of healthcare, prohibitively costly utilities and other needs while underemployment worsens? Would the projected $102 million for the fiscal year stay its course or has it gone south? When would the elected elite come to the dance floor and waltz the night away singing "Long, long ago?"

■■■

With an obvious dim and bleak future, would incumbent Republicans and Covenant brave regurgitating tired rhetoric as though governance is easily swayed into repeating with failure? Did you forget that governance has patiently and meticulously taken stock of your performance? How do you rate yourself? People, the truth always prevails!

After 40 years, can we slam the door on '-gate' already?

By ROB MANKER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The greatest political scandal in American history—it toppled a presidency, jaded public perception of government and introduced us to G. Gordon Liddy's mustache—still holds a lasting, transformative effect on journalism 40 years later. And it must be stopped.

By now, you might be cursing a certain four-letter word. OK, not a word. A suffix. A tired, cliched, insufferable suffix.

"It's a real Usagegate," said Martha Brockenbrough, founder of the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar.

"That it's been used for 40 years, it reveals something. Have there been no other scandals in the last 40 years that might give us a new way to refer to something scandalous?"

Please, allow me to Elaborgate.

The first of two break-ins at the Watergate Hotel and Office Building in Washington is believed to have occurred 40 years ago Monday. It was during the second, June 17, 1972, that five burglars, later identified as operatives working for President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign, were apprehended inside the Democratic National Committee's headquarters at the Watergate.

During the next two years, The Washington Post untangled the web of skullduggery, ushering in a new brand of journalism still felt in government today.

The nation was enthralled by details of what had happened and, ultimately, of who was responsible. By Aug. 9, 1974, Nixon was forced to resign as a result of the scandal and subsequent cover-up by his administration. Dozens of others in or near the Nixon White House, including burglar liaison Liddy, were indicted or jailed.

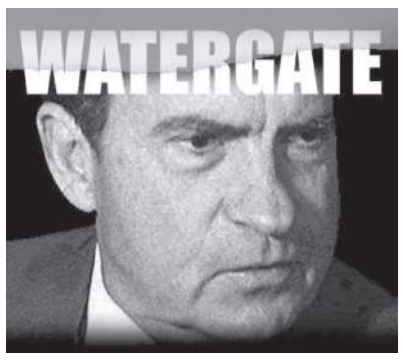
In the interim, despite merely being the last syllable of the word describing the place where the break-ins happened, "-gate" was popularized as a sort of shorthand to concisely refer to political impropriety of any kind and scope. Worse, it served to feed our collective hunger for scandal to the point where "-gate" has been diluted to convey even just a whiff of petty controversy.

And while you'd be correct in assuming that media were to blame, it didn't start the way you might think.

"We can trace it back to National Lampoon magazine in 1973," Kory Stamper, an associate editor for Merriam-Webster dictionary, said of a satirical story about a fake Russian scandal, which the magazine dubbed "Volgagate."

That opened the flood of "-gates."

The late William Safire, a *New York Times* columnist, grammarian and former Nixon speechwriter, is often credited/blamed as head of the "-gate" community. In a 1996 *New York* magazine piece, Noam Cohen famously assembled 20 "-gates" coined by Safire. Cohen wrote that Safire might have been "rehabilitating Nixon by relentlessly tarring his successors with the same rhetorical brush—diminished guilt by association."



And it's still happening, deliberately or not.

One wonders what Safire might think of his legacy by extension to Rush Limbaugh's characterizations of women's rights activist Sandra Fluke ("Slutgate") and tweets of pictures showing a former congressman's genitalia ("Weinergate").

We've had at least three "Troopergates" in three states involving three governors (Bill Clinton, Eliot Spitzer and Sarah Palin). The use of "-gate" has spread to sports, entertainment, even to other countries.

"Blagogate," "Tigergate," "Kanyegate." It's all too much to Tolergate.

"It's overused," Brockenbrough said. "No one should aspire to write with cliches. They do help us get a lot of complicated things across in few words, but it's not a good way to get people to keep reading what you're writing. And that's a huge battle for journalists today—not enough people are reading this really important news."

Exactly how many "-gates" are there? No one can say for sure. Stamper estimated the total at more than 200 but admitted she's no "-gate" keeper. She said Merriam-Webster added the scandal-oriented definition for "-gate" in 1993, before it enjoyed something of a rebirth during the Clinton administration. ("Monicagate," "Zippergate" and "Tailgate," to name a few).

And new ones are popping up all the time. When Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg wore his signature sweatshirt to meet with investors before his company's ill-fated initial public offering this month, the resulting fallout over Zuck's failure to dress up was labeled "Hoodiegate."

"The force of its meaning has certainly changed over the years," Stamper said.

Brockenbrough sees a teaching moment, comparing the "-gate" glut to the longtime use of "-omatic," or more recently, "-palooza."

"In a way, it reminds me of the celebrity romance portmanteau," she said. (Think Brad Pitt + Angelina Jolie equals "Brangelina"). "After a while, it got annoying, so you see it happening a bit less these days.

"If the tabloids can recognize the staleness of a language trick, then let's hope journalists doing the good, important work will do the same."

See, it's not too late. We can just get rid of all these made-up words for faux scandals. Simply Oblitergate them. Kory, please, save us from ourselves. Do something.

"It's hard for me to think of a way to scold you," she said, declining to castigate. "It's not really the dictionary's place to scold."

Maybe it was all inevitable. Had the Intercon housed the DNC in '72, perhaps Janet Jackson's infamous Super Bowl wardrobe malfunction would have later instead been dubbed "Nipplecon." Had the DNC called the Biltmore home 40 years ago, maybe those escort-frequenting Secret Service agents in Colombia would have found themselves embroiled not in "Hookergate," but "Hookermore."

Even now, surely we can find an alternative to "-gate." Maybe "Tiger-Liddy," "Zipper-Liddy" or "Nipple-Liddy."

Or maybe not.

Rob Manker is an editor for the Chicago Tribune. *Email: rmanker@tribune.com*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

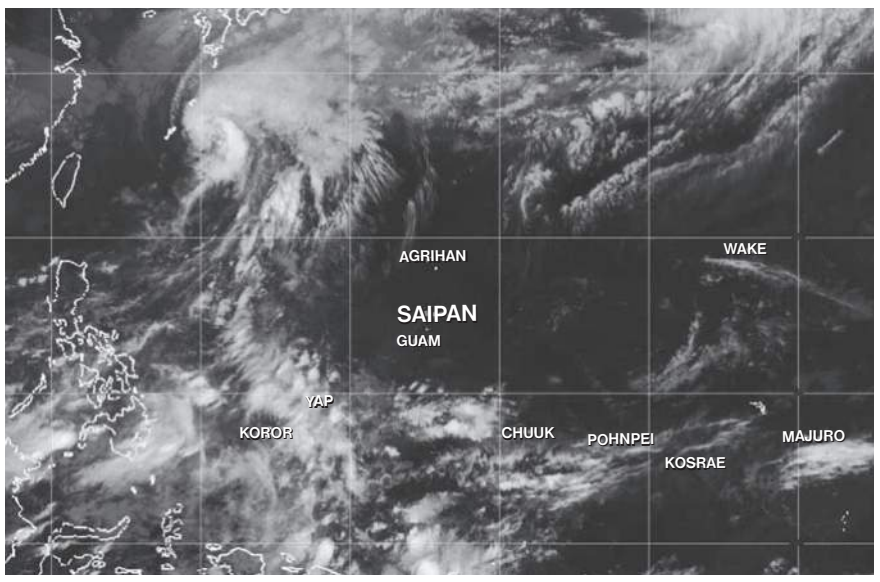
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲92	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Showers	▲71	▼57
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Paris	Rain	▲70	▼57
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼66
Rome	Sunny	▲79	▼60
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲82	▼65
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging south winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa or west of a line from 25N138E to 21N138E to 17N134E. A weak circulation is centered near Koror at 8N134E. A surface trough extends southeastward from the circulation to EQ138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Republic of Koror and near Yap or west of a line from EQ139E to 10N139E. An upper-level low is centered southeast of Guam near 11N146E. Divergent upper-level winds south of the low are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Yap and Guam within 150 miles of a line from 14N136E to 6N146E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei to near Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 2N150E to 5N164E and also from northeast of Kwajalein to southeast of Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 8B167E to 5N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:36 PM	7:17 AM
Thursday	9:29 PM	8:20 AM
Friday	10:17 PM	9:19 AM
Saturday	11:01 PM	10:15 AM
Sunday	11:41 PM	11:08 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Business

Kids could someday get on Facebook, without lying

NEW YORK (AP)—Though Facebook bans children under 13, millions of them have profiles on the site by lying about their age.

The company is now testing ways to allow those kids to participate without needing to lie. This would likely be under parental supervision, such as by connecting children's accounts to their parents' accounts.

Like many other online services, Facebook prohibits kids under 13 because federal law requires companies to obtain parental consent if they want to collect information about those children.

Such information collection is central to Facebook. Every photo or status update a kid posts on Facebook could count as information collection. Many companies consider the parental-consent requirement too burdensome, so they simply ban all children under 13 instead.

But that ban is difficult to enforce. In many cases, parents themselves help children skirt it by setting up profiles for them and lying about their ages. There are an estimated 7.5 million kids under 13 on Facebook, out of more than 900 million users worldwide.

In a statement, Facebook noted that many recent reports have highlighted "just how difficult it is to enforce age restrictions on the Internet, especially when parents want their children to access online content and services."

"We are in continuous dialogue with stakeholders, regulators and other policymakers about how best to help parents keep their kids safe in an evolving online environment," the company said.

Few details are available on the nature of Facebook's tests, which The Wall Street Journal reported on in Monday's editions. Relaxing the ban on younger children could be a long way off, or never get implemented, as happens with many features that Facebook tests.

The report comes just two weeks after Facebook began trading stock as a public company. Its stock price has fallen in part because of concerns about its ability to keep increasing revenue and make money from its growing mobile audience.

AP

An unidentified 11-year-old girl looks at Facebook on her computer at her home in Palo Alto, Calif., on Monday, June 4, 2012.

To James Steyer, the CEO of the nonprofit Common Sense Media, Facebook's discussions on permitting young kids to join is about expanding its audience—and profits.

"With the growing concerns and pressure around Facebook's business model, the company appears to be doing whatever it takes to identify new revenue streams and short-term corporate profits to impress spooked shareholders," Steyer said in a statement.

But Stephen Balkan, the CEO of another kids-and-technology nonprofit, the Family Online Safety Institute, disagrees.

Balkan, who sits on Facebook's Safety Advisory Board in an unpaid position, said the company has been discussing the issue for more than a year. That's months before Facebook made regulatory filings in February for its initial public offering of stock, which took place in mid-May.

"It has nothing to do with the IPO," he said.

Balkan offered some ideas about what Facebook could look like for kids. For one, the default setting to their account could be set to "friends only" so that strangers can't see their posts. Teenagers who are 13 to 17 currently have their accounts set to "friends of friends" by default, so the under-13 restriction would be a step beyond that.

In addition, parents could have final say on whom their kids become friends with on Facebook. And Facebook could even keep advertising off kids' accounts, he added.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see some movement from Facebook this before the end of the year," Balkan said. "By the way I think it would be a good thing if they do it right, rather than this untenable situation of just kicking off under-13s when they discover them."

Schools turn their noses up at 'pink slime'

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's school districts are turning up their noses at "pink slime," the beef product that caused a public uproar earlier this year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the vast majority of states participating in its National School Lunch Program have opted to order ground beef that doesn't contain the product known as lean finely textured beef.

Only three states—Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota—chose to order beef that may contain the filler.

The product has been used for decades and federal regulators say it's safe to eat. It nevertheless became the center of national attention after the nickname "pink slime" was quoted in a *New York Times* article on the safety of meat processing methods. The filler is made of fatty bits of beef that are heated then treated with a puff of ammonia to kill bacteria.

In response to the public outcry over its use, the USDA said in March said that it would for the first time offer schools the choice to purchase beef without the filler for the coming 2012-2013 school year. The agency has continued to affirm that lean finely textured beef is a safe, affordable and nutritious product that reduces overall fat content.

But as of May 18, the agency says states ordered more than 20 million pounds of ground beef products that don't contain lean finely textured beef. Orders for beef that may contain the filler came to about 1 million pounds.

Because schools were not given a choice last year, all states may have previously received beef with the product mixed in. The USDA estimates that lean finely textured beef accounted for about 6.5 percent of ground beef orders.

The agency is still accepting orders for the upcoming school year.

The USDA does not buy lean finely textured beef directly, but purchases finished products from beef vendors who must meet the agency's specifications for orders; products can consist of no more than 15 percent of the product.

US economic outlook worsens after jobs report

WASHINGTON (AP)—The faltering U.S. job market has prompted economists to take a much dimmer view of the country's growth prospects. That's a shift from just a few weeks ago, when many were upgrading their forecasts.

Friday's surprisingly bleak jobs report for May followed a spate of disappointing data. Manufacturing activity slowed, an index of home sales fell and consumer confidence tumbled. Mounting troubles in Europe and elsewhere have heightened economists' concerns.

"The latest economic data have been decisively disappointing," Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, wrote in a client note.

JPMorgan Chase sharply reduced its growth forecast for the July-September quarter to a 2 percent annual rate, down from 3 percent. It cited the weaker U.S. hiring and a likely drop in U.S. exports related to slower growth overseas.

And JPMorgan Chase now forecasts growth of 2.1 percent for 2012, down from 2.3 percent.

Julia Coronado, an economist at BNP Paribas in New York, said she now expects growth of 2.2 percent this year, down from her previous forecast of 2.4 percent. She also revised down her estimate of growth in the April-June quarter to a 2.2 percent annual rate, from a 2.5 percent rate. "We keep hoping that we're going to turn a corner and move into a stronger phase of recovery, and the door keeps getting slammed shut," Coronado said.

Forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers and Swiss bank UBS have also marked down their expectations since Friday's jobs report.

As a general rule, it takes about 2.5 percent growth to generate enough hiring to keep up with population growth and prevent the unemployment rate from rising. The reduced forecasts suggest that hiring may not strengthen much this year.

After months of fitful expansion since the recession ended three years ago, many analysts had expected the economy to begin strengthening steadily.

Last month, the National Association for Business Economics said its latest survey of economists found rising expectations for job gains and housing construction. And in April, the Federal Reserve raised its forecast for growth this year to nearly 2.7 percent, from a January estimate of 2.5 percent.

Now, it looks as if the recovery is stumbling again.

Delta reports financial and operating performance for May

SAIPAN—Delta Air Lines yesterday reported financial and operating performance for May 2012.

Delta's consolidated passenger unit revenue (PRASM) increased 6 percent for the month of May as compared to the prior year. While lower than recent guidance by one point, May's performance is strong when viewed in the context of an exceptional May performance in 2011. The variance to recent guidance is due primarily to the impact from competitor fare actions in the second half of the month. Delta expects strong peak season revenue performance.

System load factor increased 0.2 points on a 0.9 percent reduction in capacity.

The company's fuel price per gallon was $3.37 for the month.

Delta had strong operational performance during the month. Delta's completion factor of 99.7 percent was 0.2 points higher than prior year, and its on-time performance improved 3.7 points to 86.4 percent.

The company's financial and operational performance is detailed below.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 160 million customers each year. During the past year, Delta was named domestic "Airline of the Year" by the readers of Travel Weekly magazine, was named the "Top Tech-Friendly U.S. Airline" by *PCWorld* magazine for its innovation in technology and won the Business Travel News Annual Airline Survey. With an industry-leading global network, Delta and the Delta Connection carriers offer service to nearly 350 destinations in 65 countries on six continents. ***(Delta)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,101.46	1,278.18	2,760.01
-17.11	+0.14	+12.53
-0.14%	+0.01%	+0.46%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0324	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7604	Philippine Peso	43.5920
British Pound	0.6506	Indian Rupee	55.8036	Singapore Dollar	1.2897
Canadian Dollar	1.0415	Indonesian Rupiah	9,487.6	South Korean Won	1,183.5
Chinese Yuan	6.3520	Japanese Yen	78.1861	Swiss Franc	0.9656
Euro	0.8039	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2121	Taiwan Dollar	30.0752
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3256	Thailand Baht	31.5756

Nation

Clinton: Romney would be 'calamitous' for US

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton warned Monday that a Mitt Romney presidency would be "calamitous" for the nation and the world, going further than even President Barack Obama in depicting the consequences of a return to Republican rule of the White House.

With Obama standing thoughtfully to one side, Clinton slammed Romney by name, an apparent rebuttal to his own comments last week that were widely seen as flattering to Romney's background in business.

Clinton said Obama had earned a second term because of his steering of the economy through a "miserable situation," and that "the alternative would be, in my opinion, calamitous for our country and the world."

Clinton's take came as he helped raise at least $3.6 million for Obama at three New York fundraisers. The two have patched over a personal rift from the 2008 campaign when Obama defeated Hillary Rodham Clinton in a bitter Democratic primary. But Clinton caused some heartburn in Obama's campaign last week by remarking that Romney had a "sterling" business record—an assertion that undercut Democrats' criticism of Romney's decisions at the private equity firm Bain Capital.

Clinton also said at the fundraiser that Republicans and Romney have adopted Europe's economic policies. "Who would have ever thought that the Republicans who made a living for decades deriding Old Europe would embrace their economic policies," he said.

AP

Former President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama wave to the crowd during a campaign event at the Waldorf Astoria, Monday, June 4, 2012, in New York.

For his part, Obama said the economy had been difficult for so many voters that some could reach the point that "you're willing to try just about anything, even if you've seen it before."

Clinton's larger point in the interview last week was that Obama is the better choice to steer the economy, and the White House denied that Clinton "made news." The televised remark nonetheless gave Republicans campaign gold just as the government released a disappointing report saying the United States created far fewer new jobs in May than expected—a big political blow for Obama.

Obama and Clinton also are on opposite sides of a close Democratic congressional primary contest in New Jersey. Clinton also campaigned last week for Wisconsin Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett. Barrett faces Republican Gov. Scott Walker in a special recall election contest on Tuesday but has seen little backing from the Democratic Party or Obama.

Romney's campaign sought to exploit the differences, circulating Clinton's comments from a December 2007 interview on PBS in which he suggested that electing Obama would carry some risks. "When is the last time we elected a president based on one year of service in the Senate before he started running?" Clinton said.

Still, Clinton's ability to deliver campaign dollars and his record as a sound campaign strategist make him an asset to the Obama campaign that apparently outweighs any drawbacks. For Clinton, Obama is not only the head of their shared party, he may be the best entree for a second Clinton administration if Hillary Clinton were to run for president in 2016.

The two appeared together at a fundraiser in April and plan several more joint events across the country. Clinton has also recorded a video for Obama and sent campaign emails to supporters.

Obama campaign bundler and billionaire investor Marc Lasry held an exclusive reception Monday night, followed by a gala at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, where rocker Jon Bon Jovi closed a dinner concert with the upbeat Beatles anthem "Here Comes the Sun."

Taking the stage a short while later, Clinton harkened back to the better economic days of his presidency.

"Remember me? I'm the guy who gave you four surplus budgets out of the eight I sent" to Congress, he said to applause.

Clinton and Obama were focusing their message Monday on economic opportunity. Polls show that economic trends are likely to determine the election, a development that could help Romney if the economy sags significantly. Obama and Romney were tied at 46 percent in Gallup polling last week of national election preferences.

Report: Cannibalism suspect 'Va Tech' in waiting

BALTIMORE (AP)—A Maryland college student accused of killing a housemate and eating his heart and part of his brain was kicked out of an ROTC program after he punched holes in the walls of the cadet computer lab and a military instructor referred to him as a "Virginia Tech waiting to happen," according to a campus police report months before the attack.

Alex Kinyua, 21, a native of Kenya and a student at Morgan State University, admitted using a knife to kill and carve up 37-year-old Kujoe Bonsafo Agyei-Kodie before eating his organs, the Harford County Sheriff's Office said last week. The older man, a native of Ghana, had been staying with the Kinyua family for about six weeks at their townhouse in the Baltimore suburb of Joppatowne. Investigators haven't given a possible motive.

Two weeks before he was killed, he said he was ready to come home and get a job and dreamed of someday becoming president of his native land of Ghana, his relatives from that country told The Associated Press.

"Daddy is in a state of shock, does not want to believe his son is dead," Gloria Boahema Asante, the youngest of four siblings, said in an interview with the AP in Accra. "We look at the picture that went with the story and see the smiles on his face and do not want to believe that he is dead."

A Morgan State campus police report obtained by The Baltimore Sun said that after Kinyua's outburst in the classroom in December, Staff Sgt. Robert Edwards, a senior military instructor at the school, made the Virginia Tech comment.

The report to which the Sun referred to on Monday does not provide any rationale for the mention of the 2007 massacre in which 32 students were killed by a student who then committed suicide. The Virginia Tech gunman had been ruled a danger to himself during a court hearing in 2005 and was ordered to undergo outpatient mental health treatment.

Morgan State officials referred questions about the report to campus police, who did not provide it immediately to the AP.

The report does say Kinyua was barred from campus until a meeting with school officials and that two officers didn't think a psychological evaluation was needed, though one did call a counseling center emergency number. When they got no response, they released him to his father, physics professor Antony Kinyua. His father was the one who asked Agyei-Kodie to move in when he hadn't worked for three years and was trying to re-establish his life, said James Holt, a friend of the victim for about 10 years.

The report notes that Kinyua was kicked out of the school's ROTC program because of the outburst. ROTC officials have declined to discuss the reason why Kinyua was "disenrolled" in January in the college-based U.S. military program that allows students to be commissioned as officers when they graduate. Officials said Monday that Edwards was now deployed to Afghanistan.

Poll: Half of NYers oppose drink restrictions

NEW YORK (AP)—About half of New Yorkers say Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed ban of sugary drinks over 16 ounces from the city's eateries is an example of government going too far, while 42 percent say it would be good health policy, according to a poll released Monday.

Of the 500 adults surveyed Sunday for the NY1-Marist poll, 53 percent said the proposal is a bad idea, while 42 percent praised the concept—which would make New York the first American city to so directly attempt to limit portion sizes in an attempt to fight obesity.

Forty-five percent of those polled said they think the ban would help people lose weight, while 52 percent said it wouldn't make a difference. More than half the people surveyed said they never order a sugary drink large enough to be banned.

The pollsters contacted people at random on cell phones and land lines on Sunday. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Last week, Bloomberg proposed limiting portion sizes of sugary drinks to 16 ounces at the city's restaurants, delis, food trucks, movie theaters and sporting arenas. Regular soda and sports drinks would be affected, while diet sodas wouldn't. Any drink that's more than half milk or more than 70 percent juice would be exempt.

Grocery stores and many convenience stores are regulated by the state and wouldn't be impacted.

Marc La Vorgna, a spokesman for Bloomberg, said the poll showed New Yorkers weren't overwhelmingly set against the proposal.

"We didn't propose it because we thought it would be popular, but it should come as no surprise that the numbers are so close since New Yorkers always have had an openness to bold ideas when taking on intractable problems," he said in a statement.

The ban has been denounced by the soft-drink industry and critics who accuse the mayor of trying to institute a "nanny state" rather than allowing individuals to make their own choices. It's expected to win the approval of the Bloomberg-appointed Board of Health and take effect as early as March

ACROSS THE NATION

5 bodies found in Ariz. may be latest drug violence

PHOENIX (AP)—In the desert within 35 miles of one of the nation's largest cities and about 70 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border, Arizona authorities found a car ablaze with five bodies burned beyond recognition inside. The location of the smoldering car in a known smuggling corridor and the nature of the crime itself have Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu saying that he's all but certain a violent cartel is responsible. The area known as the Vekol Valley where the bodies were found has been the scene of shootouts among smuggling groups fighting over loads of drugs or illegal immigrants, high-speed pursuits and major drug seizures. The area is so heavily trafficked that at one point the Bureau of Land Management posted signs warning the public that "may encounter armed criminals and smuggling vehicles traveling at high rates of speed."

Man dies after being detained at Calif. Walmart

COVINA, Calif. (AP)—Police say a suspected shoplifter died at a Southern California Walmart store after a fight with store security workers who caught him in the parking lot. Covina police Lt. Holly Francisco says when police arrived Friday they found the suspect restrained by store security and appearing to need medical help. Officers called paramedics and the man was later pronounced dead at a hospital. Francisco says the suspect had been accused of stealing clothing and body wash.

Death toll rises to 4 in Ohio pre-graduation crash

BRUNSWICK, Ohio (AP)—The death toll from a weekend car crash has risen to four students after an 18-year-old senior died Monday of injuries he suffered. A fifth student also was injured. The MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland released a statement from Kevin Fox's family Monday morning saying he had died. No other information was released. "We are grateful for the overwhelming support that the northeast Ohio community has given our family during this difficult time," the Fox family's statement said.

Asia

Hanoi opens 3 MIA search areas, releases letters

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—"If Dad calls, tell him I got too close to being dead but I'm O.K. I was real lucky. I'll write again soon."

That poignant message never reached the mother of Army Sgt. Steve Flaherty. He was killed in Vietnam in 1969 before he could mail the letters he was carrying, including one he might have been writing when he died. The letters were taken by the Vietnamese after his death, U.S. officials said in releasing excerpts on Monday.

Flaherty

The letters, chronicling the carnage and exhaustion of war, were given to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in exchange for a Vietnamese soldier's diary that was taken from his body by an American GI. The letters will be returned to Flaherty's family in South Carolina.

Vietnamese Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh and Panetta made the exchange in a ceremony in which the Vietnamese also agreed to open three new sites in the country for excavation by the United States to search for troop remains from the war. Acidic soil in Vietnam erodes bones quickly, leaving in many cases only teeth for military teams to use to try and identify service members.

Ron Ward, U.S. casualty resolution specialist at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hanoi, said there are at least four U.S. troops believed to be lost in the three areas that are being opened. That leaves eight sites still restricted by the Vietnamese, he said.

Memories of the Vietnam War are fading for many Americans, and the war is the stuff of textbooks for others. But it is brought vividly alive in Sgt. Flaherty's letters. The mail from the Columbia, S.C., native to his mother, Lois, and two women identified only as Mrs. Wyatt and Betty, offer emotional accounts of his fear—and also his determination.

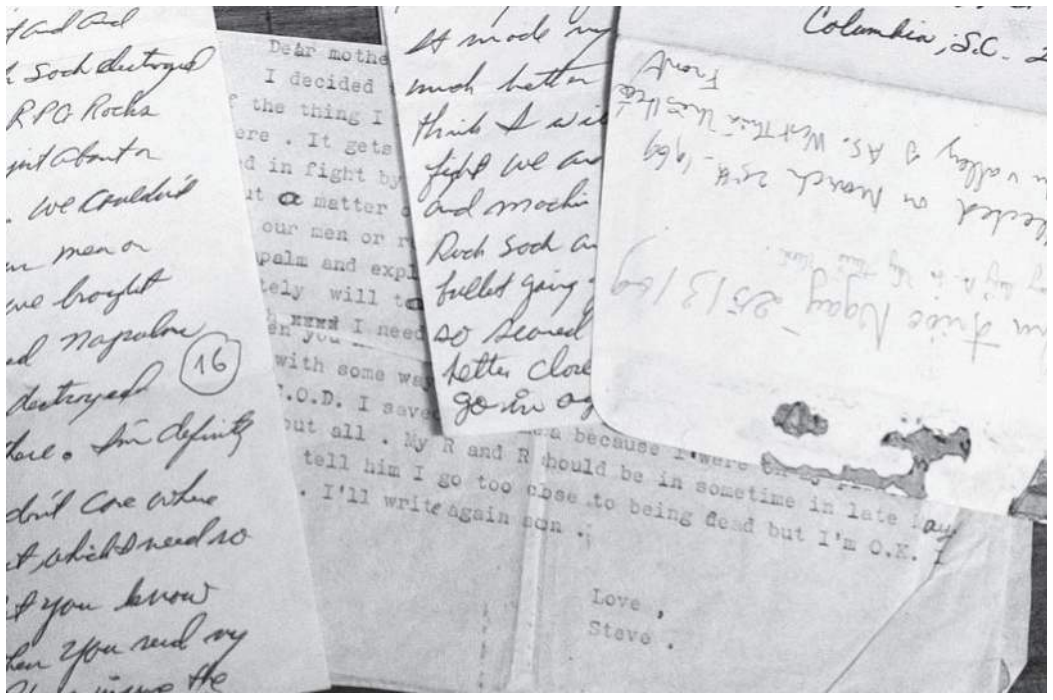
"I felt bullets going past me," Flaherty writes to Betty. "I have never been so scared in my life."

"We took in lots of casualties and death," he writes. "We dragged more bodies of dead and wounded than I can ever want to forget."

"Thank you for your sweet card. It made my miserable day a much better one but I don't think I will ever forget the bloody fight we are having. ... RPG rockets and machine guns really tore my rucksack."

By 1969, the war was sharply dividing Americans back home, but Flaherty tells Mrs. Wyatt he still believes in the mission.

"This is a dirty and cruel war but I'm sure people will understand the purpose of this war even though many of us might not agree," he writes.


AP
The personal letters of U.S. Army Sgt. Steve Flaherty, who was killed in action in 1969, rest on a table at Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hanoi, Vietnam Monday, June 4, 2012.

In another section of the letter to his mother, Flaherty reassures her that he will get some rest.

"I definitely will take R&R," he wrote. "I don't care where so long as I get a rest, which I need so badly, soon. I'll let you know exact date."

Flaherty, who was 22 when he was killed in March 1969, was returned home for burial. Assigned to the 101st Airborne, he died in the northern section of South Vietnam.

It's clear he saw some heavy combat.

"Our platoon started off with 35 men but winded up with 19 men when it was over," he tells his mother. "We lost platoon leader and whole squad."

Officials said parts of Flaherty's letters were read in propaganda broadcasts by the Vietnamese during the war.

This is the first time such a joint exchange of war artifacts has occurred, they said.

Vietnamese Col. Nguyen Phu Dat had kept Sgt. Flaherty's letters, and last August he mentioned them in an online publication.

Early this year, Robert Destatte, a retired Defense Department employee who had worked for the POW/MIA office, noticed the publication, and the Pentagon began to work to get the letters back to Flaherty's family. Flaherty's sister-in-law, Martha Gibbons, 73, of Irmo, S.C., said she learned of the letters' existence about six weeks ago.

Gibbons said her husband met Flaherty when the boy was a 6-year-old living in a Japanese orphanage and her husband persuaded his mother, with whom they lived, to adopt the child. He grew up to be a well-liked, athletic boy, who dropped out of college to join the Army despite a baseball scholarship.

"He decided to enlist in the Army and go fight for his country in Vietnam and he didn't make it back, " said Kenneth L. Cannon, 80, of Prosperity, S.C., Flaherty's uncle. "It was very hard to take. It was hard."

Cannon said the family was told that he was in a field, taking a break to eat lunch or write letters.

"He never let us know how afraid and scared he was," Gibbons said. "He was in danger. We knew it was bad. We just didn't know how bad, I guess."

She's thrilled the information has been released.

"I had a very emotional morning all over again. But it was a wonderful emotion this time. It's good for both countries. It's good for all the soldiers who were killed for both countries." Gibbons said the family would store the letters with Flaherty's medals, scrapbook and flag.

Defense officials reviewing the packet of papers given to Panetta said it appears there are three sets of letters, including the four written by Flaherty. It was not clear how many other service members' letters were there, but officials were going through them Monday

ASIA BRIEFS

11 Chinese, British sailors rescued in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine coast guard says nine Chinese and two British sailors have been rescued after their yacht sank in rough waters. They were picked up by a Hong Kong cargo ship that was passing through the same waters near the Batanes islands off the country's northern tip Sunday. The yacht "Tipsy Frenz" was sailing from Hong Kong to Taiwan as part of a race when strong winds from a typhoon capsized it. The rescued sailors were taken to Manila's harbor Tuesday and will be handed over to their respective embassies after medical examination.

PH asks rebels to memorialize war horrors

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine government negotiators say they have proposed to the country's largest Muslim rebel group that the horrors of the bloody insurgency be memorialized with monuments to help future generations avoid the pitfalls that have sparked fighting. Presidential adviser Teresita Deles said Tuesday that the plan also includes updating history books with details of the decades-old Muslim rebellion in the country's south. She says the changes will come after a peace accord is completed. Manila and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front remain optimistic a peace pact can be reached despite key differences in Malaysian-brokered negotiations.

China tells US to stop reporting Beijing's bad air

BEIJING (AP)—A senior Chinese environmental official has told foreign embassies to stop publishing their own reports on air quality in China, a clear reference to a popular U.S. Embassy Twitter feed that tracks pollution in smoggy Beijing. Wu Xiaoqing, a vice environmental minister, said foreign embassies or consulates in China that are publishing air quality data of their own should stop doing so. Wu made the remarks Tuesday at a press briefing. He said only the Chinese government is authorized to monitor and publish air quality information and warned that data from other sources may not be standardized or rigorous.

Singapore curbs window cleaning amid maid deaths

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore has tightened rules on window cleaning following the deaths of nine maids who fell from high-rise apartments this year.

Maids are no longer allowed to clean the outside of windows above ground level unless they are supervised, and window grills must be installed and locked during cleaning, the Manpower Ministry said in a statement late Monday.

The ministry said it plans to notify all households with maids of the new rules, which are effective immediately, and employers who fail to comply may be permanently banned from hiring maids.

The ministry said it also plans to introduce legislation later this year that would double the fine and maximum jail sentence for employers who fail to provide maids with a safe working environment. The new penalties would be a fine of 10,000 Singapore dollars ($7,750) and a 12-month jail term, the ministry said.

Singapore is under pressure to improve the working conditions of foreign maids, who live full-time in one in five households in the city-state of 5.2 million people. In March, the government pledged to mandate at least one day off a week for maids starting next year.

Last month, a court fined an employer SG$5,000 and barred her from hiring domestic workers in the future after a maid fell and died from her fifth-floor apartment last year while cleaning windows standing on a stool.

The ministry said seven of this year's nine maid deaths were due to dangerous window cleaning or hanging of laundry; the other two deaths remain under investigation. More than 90 percent of Singapore residents live in high-rise apartments.

Local media Monday featured dramatic front-page photos of a 29-year-old Indonesian maid as she fell from her employer's 12th floor apartment window Sunday. She was grabbed and rescued by neighbors one floor below.

The nine maids who fell to their deaths were from Indonesia, which supplies about half of Singapore's 200,000 maids. The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore in recent months had called for a ban on maids cleaning the outside of windows.

Govt calls for calm after western Myanmar clashes

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's government warned against "anarchic" activities Monday after 10 Muslims were beaten to death in an area known for sectarian conflict and a dozen other people were injured in a confrontation with police.

Both events took place Sunday in Rakhine state in northwestern Myanmar, a remote area where Buddhist and Muslim relations are strained, sometimes to the point of violence. State television warned that legal action will be taken against those who broke the law.

The report said 300 people stopped a bus carrying Muslims from a religious gathering, dragged out the 10 occupants, beat them to death and burned the vehicle in Taunggup, 300 kilometers (180 miles) north of Yangon.

It said some anti-Muslim pamphlets had been distributed in Taunggup relating to the rape and murder of a young Rakhine girl last month, allegedly by three Muslim youths.

Ethnic conflicts are a major cause of instability in Myanmar, mostly involving sizable minorities along the eastern and northern borders seeking autonomy who battle against the government.

In remote Rakhine, along the frontier with Bangladesh, tension between Buddhist residents and Muslims—exacerbated by religious differences—is often strained. The majority of residents are Buddhists from the Rakhine ethnic group, while there is also a large number of Muslims in the area particularly in northern Rakhine state.

Separately, the television report said a mob besieged a police station to demand the release of a man they believed had been arrested in a market dispute. Twelve people were hurt and police detained nine people in that incident in the Rakhine state capital Sittwe, 500 kilometers (300 miles) northwest of Yangon.

The report said police used smoke bombs to clear out the crowd after several hours after twice failing to disperse the crowd by firing shots in the air. Residents reported hearing many gunshots, but the authorities said the 12 injured people had suffered cuts and bruises.

World

Grim search for dead after Nigerian plane crash

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Emergency crews wearing masks to protect them from the acrid smoke and the stench of the dead searched for bodies in a smoldering, shattered neighborhood near the Lagos airport Monday after the crash of an airliner killed all 153 people on board and an unknown number on the ground.

Apartment buildings, small businesses and roadside shops were smashed to bricks and rubble Sunday when the Dana Air MD-83 plowed into the area about five miles (nine kilometers) short of Lagos' Murtala Muhammed International Airport.

Pilots on the flight from Nigeria's capital Abuja to its largest city of Lagos radioed the tower that they had engine trouble shortly before the crash, but the exact cause remained unclear. The weather was clear at the time.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan wept as he visited the Iju-Ishaga neighborhood, where emergency workers wore masks. A backhoe clawed at the debris looking for the dead.

Jonathan pledged to make air travel safer, but the crash called into question the government's ability to protect its citizens and enforce regulations in a nation with a history of aviation disasters.

By nightfall, searchers with police dogs recovered 137 bodies, including those of a mother cradling an infant, according to Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency. Rescuers acknowledged they still didn't know how many people died in the wrecked apartments and smaller tin-roofed buildings along the narrow streets of Iju-Ishaga.

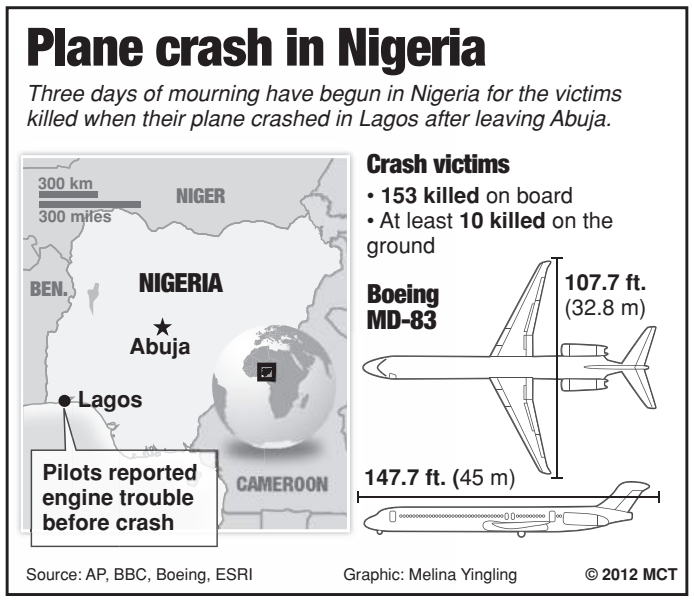
AP

Rescue workers are seen at the site of a plane crash in Lagos, Nigeria, Monday, June 4, 2012.

"The fear is that since it happened in a residential area, there may have been many people killed," said Yushau Shuaib, a federal emergency management spokesman.

Lagos state, home to 17.5 million people, has grown rapidly in recent years and soon will be home to the most populous city in all of Africa. Massive migration and urban sprawl have brought residential neighborhoods to the boundaries of the airport.

Some U.S. citizens were aboard the flight, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said, but he could not provide a firm number. Others killed in the crash included at least four Chinese citizens, two Lebanese nationals and one French citizen, officials said.



Boeing said in a statement on its website that the company is ready to provide technical assistance to the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority through the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. Dana Air said an investigation was under way with U.S. officials assisting the Nigerian government.

On April 19, 2010, the same plane made an emergency landing in Lagos because of a loss of engine power after a bird strike following takeoff, according to the Aviation Safety Network.

The plane was exported to Nigeria in early 2009. It was first delivered in 1990 with the U.S. registration number N944AS to Alaska Airlines and had two minor incidents while in the Seattle-based airline's service, according to databases of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Aviation Safety Network. On Nov. 2, 2002, the plane made an emergency diversion because of smoke and an electrical smell in the cabin. On Aug. 20, 2006, the plane was evacuated after landing at Long Beach, California, because of smoke in the cabin.

Alaska Airlines spokesman Paul McElroy said the carrier did not sell the plane directly to Dana, but rather sold it to North Shore Aircraft LLC and leased it back for a year. It returned the plane to North Shore Aircraft in August 2008, he said.

After the two smoke incidents, caused by chafing of wiring bundles in the plane, the aircraft was cleared to fly, McElroy said.

McDonnell Douglas, bought by Boeing in 1997, built the plane. It was a long-range variant of McDonnell Douglas' popular MD-80 series, one of the most widely used plane types in the 1980s and '90s. Boeing stopped manufacturing them in 1999, although they still fly in the U.S.

Israel asks Arab visitors to open emails to search

JERUSALEM (AP)—When Sandra Tamari arrived at Israel's international airport, she received an unusual request: A security agent pushed a computer screen in front of her, connected to Gmail and told her to "log in."

The agent, suspecting Tamari was involved in pro-Palestinian activism, wanted to inspect her private email account for incriminating evidence. The 42-year-old American of Palestinian descent refused and was swiftly expelled from the country.

Tamari's experience is not unique. In a cyber-age twist on Israel's vaunted history of airport security, the country has begun to force incoming travelers deemed suspicious to open personal email accounts for inspection, visitors say.

Targeting mainly Muslims or Arabs, the practice appears to be aimed at rooting out visitors who have histories of pro-Palestinian activism, and in recent weeks, has led to the expulsion of at least three American women.

It remains unclear how widespread the practice is.

However, asked about Tamari's claims, the Shin Bet security agency confirmed she had been interrogated and said its agents acted in accordance with the law.

Israel has a long history of using ethnic profiling, calling it a necessary evil resulting from its bitter experience with terrorist attacks. Arab travelers and anyone else seen as a risk are often subjected to intense questioning and invasive inspections, including strip searches.

The security procedures appear to be getting stricter: Recent searches of journalists at official events have been invasive enough to create a series of mini-uproars and walkouts—a situation that has dovetailed with increasing concerns that the government is trying to stifle dissent.

Diana Butto, a former legal adviser to the Palestinian Authority and a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, said the policy of email checks, once used sporadically, appears to have become more widespread over the past year.

Butto said she has led three tour groups to the region over the past year, and in each case, at least one member of the group was asked to open their email. She said Muslims, Arabs and Indians were typically targeted, and in most cases, were denied entry.

Butto said agents typically want to see people's itineraries, articles they have written or Facebook status updates.

Libyan government retakes Tripoli airport

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's government has retaken control of the country's main airport from disgruntled militiamen who stormed the Tripoli site with heavy machine guns and armored vehicles on Monday, Libya's interim leader said.

In an interview with the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera, the head of the country's National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, said the airport was attacked and held for several hours because it is "a strategic facility," vowing it would not fall out of government control again.

"The attack on the airport is dangerous, but we dealt with it as a government, military and revolutionaries with intelligence," he said.

He declined to explain how the airport was overrun with such ease Monday afternoon, saying only that "we have to be peaceful and diplomatic" about how to handle the country's various problems.

The militiamen from the city of Tarhouna had stormed the airport, forcing airport authorities to divert flights. The assailants occupied the airport runway and flights were diverted to Metiga air base in the city's center, Mohammed el-Gharyani of Tripoli Security Committee said.

Tunis Air announced Monday that it had canceled two flights to Tripoli in response to the violence at the airport and was waiting to see how the situation evolved, the company said in a statement.

Abdul-Jalil and el-Ghayrani both said the militiamen were angry over arrest of their commander, Abu Oleija al-Habishi, on Sunday.

Tarhouna in central Libya was widely seen as a favorite of deposed ruler Moammar Gadhafi. Its dominant tribe, also called Tarhouna, held many positions in the Libyan military under Gadhafi. The city's residents are viewed with suspicion by former rebels.

Tribal rivalries have swept Libya since Gadhafi was overthrown last year. Much of the fighting has pitted militias that fought Gadhafi against those who remained loyal to his regime.

Syrian rebels seek to coordinate

ISTANBUL (AP)—Syrian activists on Monday announced a new rebel coalition that aims to overcome deep divisions within the opposition in its fight against the forces of President Bashar Assad.

The group, the Syrian Rebels Front, declared its formation in a news conference in Turkey that had the hallmarks of a public relations event, including a banner, video presentations and a simultaneous translation service. But it was uncertain how the new organization would coordinate with other sectors of the Syrian opposition, whose failure to unite has hobbled its campaign to topple Assad despite a nationwide uprising that has lasted more than one year.

Khaled al-Okla, one of the organizers, said the fledgling group will coordinate with the Free Syrian Army, a loose coalition of rebel units whose nominal leaders are based on the Turkish side of the border with Syria. Members of the Free Syrian Army acknowledge its commanders have limited or no operational control over rebel units inside Syria, but they say the label has given a public face to the lightly armed factions, who are under heavy pressure from government forces with tanks and artillery.

"We might have some treaties or agreements to coordinate our work in Syria," said al-Okla, who claimed his umbrella group has 12,000 fighters. He also read a statement that said the Syrian Rebels Front had been formed in light of Assad's "scorched earth policy" as well as "the failure of all Arab and international initiatives to rein in Assad from his crimes," suggesting the rebels were giving up on a peace plan proposed by U.N. envoy Kofi Annan. The 15-month-old revolt against Assad's rule has killed up to 13,000 people, according to activist groups.

The Syrian rebel statement said the launching of the new front could serve "as the melting pot that brings together all armed rebel factions across Syrian territory as they seek to topple the criminal regime."

However, some in the audience, which included journalists, were skeptical. One person took a microphone and asked: "Why do we need a new front? There are already a lot of fronts."

The rebel statement cited the killings of more than 100 people, many of them small children, in Houla last week as the height of the Syrian regime's cruelty. The opposition and the government have exchanged accusations over the Houla killings, each blaming the other for the house-to-house killings. U.N. investigators have said there are strong suspicions that pro-regime gunmen are responsible for at least some of the killings.

In a speech on Sunday, Assad defended his government's crackdown on opponents and insisted the revolt was the work of foreign-backed extremists, not reformers seeking change.

Focus

In this Thursday, May 24, 2012 photo, Anna Schiferl, right, and her mother, Joanna, pose for a photograph holding their cell phones in the dining room of their LaGrange, Ill. home.

AP

Is texting ruining the art of conversation?

By MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Anna Schiferl hadn't even rolled out of bed when she reached for her cell phone and typed a text to her mom, one recent Saturday. Mom was right downstairs in the kitchen. The text? Anna wanted cinnamon rolls for breakfast.

Soon after, the 13-year-old could hear mom's voice echoing through the house.

"Anna," Joanna Schiferl called, "if you want to talk to me, you come downstairs and see me!"

Anna laughs about it now. "I was kind of being lazy," the teen from suburban Chicago concedes. "I know that sounds horrible."

Well, maybe not horrible, but certainly increasingly typical.

Statistics from the Pew Internet & American Life Project show that, these days, many people with cell phones prefer texting over a phone call. It's not always young people, though the data indicate that the younger you are, the more likely you are to prefer texting.

And that's creating a communication divide, of sorts—the talkers vs. the texters.

Some would argue that it's no big deal. What difference should it make how we communicate, as long as we do so?

But many experts say the most successful communicators will, of course, have the ability to do both, talk or text, and know the most appropriate times to use those skills. And they fear that more of us are losing our ability to have—or at least are avoiding—the traditional face-to-face conversations that are vital in the workplace and personal relationships.

"It is an art that's becoming as valuable as good writing," says Janet Sternberg, a professor of communication and media studies at Fordham University in New York who is also a linguist.

In the most extreme cases, she's noticed that more students don't look her in the eye and have trouble with the basics of direct conversation—habits that, she says, will not serve them well as they enter a world where many of their elders still expect an in-person conversation, or at the very least a phone call.

On today's college campuses, the dynamic is often different. Forget about things like "office hours," for instance. Many professors say they rarely see students outside of class.

"I sit in my office hours lonely now because if students have a question, they email, often late at night," says Renee Houston, an associate professor of communication studies at the University of Puget Sound in Washington state.

"And they never call, ever."

She recalls overhearing students chuckling about the way people older than them communicate.

"My parents left me a VOICEMAIL. Can you believe it?" one said, as if voicemail had gone the way of the dinosaurs.

This doesn't sound surprising or particularly troublesome to Lisa Auster-Gussman, who'll be a senior this fall at the University of Richmond in Virginia. For her, there are simply particular tools she uses to communicate, depending on the recipient.

Email is for professors, yes. Phone calls and maybe the occasional text are for parents, if the parents know how to do the latter.

"But I don't communicate much with older people. So much of my life is set up over text," says Auster-Gussman, who sends and receives an average of about 6,000 text messages a month.

Many are done as "group texts," sharing messages among eight college friends who live in the same building. The interactions are nothing more than you'd say in a casual conversation, Auster-Gussman says—but they are constant when they're not together.

Recently, for instance, she went to a movie and came out to find 50 text messages waiting for her on her phone.

Meanwhile, last summer, when she was away from her boyfriend, she went days without talking to him on the phone, but texted with him several times a day.

"You're not even really talking to him," she remembers her perplexed father saying.

"But I felt like I was talking to him all day, every day," Auster-Gussman says.

Is there some aversion to talking on the phone? Not really, she says. It's just a preference. In this day and age, it's just what you do.

As Anna, the 13-year-old in suburban Chicago, sees it: "There are people you'll text, but won't call. It's just awkward that way.

"It's not about anything important—just a way to stay in touch with each other."

She and her closest friends also send each other videos of themselves and their surroundings—maybe of their dogs or something new in their bedroom. "People would probably say, like, 'Why don't you just call them?'" Anna says.

Experts say there is, of course, nothing wrong with casual conversation and fun between friends. One could argue that the constant banter—scores of texts each day—keep people more connected. The problem, some communication experts say, is that the conversation isn't particularly deep—and therein lies the problem, says Joseph Grenny, co-author of the book "Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High."

"The core problem has existed since we've had telephones—probably since the time of a telegraph," Grenny says. "We loathe having crucial conversations. We are paralyzed and do what we can to avoid them."

That applies to any generation, he says. Texting is just the latest way to do that.

Though they may not always be so good at deep conversations themselves, Grenny suggests that parents model the behavior for their children and put down their own mobile devices. He says they also should set limits, as Anna's mom did when she enforced the "no texting to people under the same roof" rule.

A bit of self-awareness helps, too.

Mary Ann Allison, an assistant professor of media studies at Hofstra University, has her students keep a log of their own communication habits.

"By paying attention to it, they say, `Wow, it's a really different conversation when you're talking with someone and listening to them," Allison says. They key in on body language, facial expressions and tone of voice—all cues that you lose when you can't see or hear someone, or when you're distracted, even in person, by a gadget.

Sternberg, at Fordham, asks her students to give up one form of electronic communication to see what kind of difference it makes in their lives.

She also has them practice simple tasks such as standing up in a room full of people and introducing themselves. Many of them hate the drill, she says, but later tell her how useful it was, especially in the workplace.

Interestingly, Anna's mom, Joanna Schiferl, is more worried about the effect that texting is having on her daughter's writing skills than her social skills. Anna tends to rush her writing and pays less attention to grammar, or uses abbreviations she'd use in a text. It is a common observation among parents.

So the key, experts say, is to recognize your weak point and work on developing a wide range of communication skills.

"People with a more flexible style, whether they're communicators in person or through technology, will have an easier time adapting," Houston says—and will help bridge the communication gap, generational or otherwise.

That's not always easy in a world where modes of communication are ever-evolving—though young people often adapt with ease.

Houston notes, for instance, that her 13-year-old son is now doing homework with friends via Skype.

And that seems to be a trend. A recent Pew survey found that online video chat is catching on with teens, especially girls. The survey found that 37 percent of Internet users, ages 12 to 17, reported using such applications as Skype, Googletalk or iChat.

Of course, other forms of social networking are still enticing, as Anna's mom discovered one recent evening when she noticed that her daughter was on Facebook when she was supposed to be doing homework.

What did mom do? She broke her own rule.

"I texted her from downstairs," mom says, chuckling, "just to bust her."

ON THE NET

Pew Internet & American Life Project: http://www.pewinternet.org

Campus Life

Students are breaking out smartphones in class

By ANANDA BOARDMAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS—Students, long used to hiding their cellphones under desks or in pockets, are increasingly encouraged to use their digital devices in class at some Dallas-area schools. Even taking video of teachers is allowed in one Collin County district.

"You can either fight (technology) or embrace it, but you're not going to win the fight against it," said Philip Anthony, superintendent of Princeton ISD, which launched a "Bring Your Own Technology" policy in August that goes further than most—allowing students to use their cellphones to video-record lessons.

Only a few years ago, many schools viewed smartphones, laptops and other digital devices as distractions and banned them. Now, some North Texas districts are developing policies that outline how they can be used to aid learning. In addition to Princeton, Richardson ISD and Weatherford ISD, west of Fort Worth, are changing their technology policies.

"We're only going to be doing more of this," said Richardson ISD spokesman Tim Clark. "We're not going to be doing less."

But not everyone is embracing video in the classroom. One teachers group says that it opens teachers and schools to legal problems.

"The legal concerns are not specifically about videotaping the teachers. The video concerns have a lot more to do with catching students" on tape, said Paul Tapp, an attorney for the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

The association was contacted by several teachers concerned that Princeton's BYOT policy requires teachers to allow students to take video in class if asked.

Tapp said the policy adds more work for teachers, may lead to classroom distractions and could result in expensive lawsuits if students are caught on tape and the video is posted to sites such as YouTube or Facebook.

"We have serious concerns about our educators being placed in that kind of position," Tapp said. "We're not anti-technology. Technology has great potential in the classroom, (but) this policy has not been developed with the proper balance."

Tapp said the educators group would like to see more controls on when a student can record.

Texas Education Agency officials said Princeton is the first district they've heard of to allow video, though other districts allow the use of digital devices for other purposes.

TEA spokeswoman DeEtta Culbertson said the agency would monitor the policy "for the whole uniqueness of the situation," but the agency does not have regulatory control over whether a district can allow technology in the classroom.

"The one thing you'd have to be aware of is protecting student privacy," she said.

Princeton High School senior Nicholas Vandagriff said the ability to record his classes is especially useful for subjects "where there's a lot of memorization." He used audio recording of a government class last semester to aid him in studying for tests.

Vandagriff, 18, records video in his calculus course, which he said helps him to look back over how an equation was solved.

"Now instead of having a page of equations, you have five minutes of video explanation," he said.

The district, with about 3,200 students, wants students to use the video or audio recordings for studying and to share with kids who were absent because of sports or illness.

As it stands now, the policy requires teachers to allow video recording during any class, as long as the student informs the teacher beforehand.

Anthony said that teachers are able to refuse videotaping if the activity the student wants to record is not educationally relevant and that the district will revisit the policy as needed.

It's likely the new policy will look a lot like the current policy—in which students can record teachers—but only with permission.

Richardson ISD's Clark said the assumption is that teachers will grant permission unless there is a clear reason not to. He was not aware of any complaints that a teacher had denied permission.

"Teacher discretion exists to allow them to evaluate different situations and use their professional judgment to react according to monitor."

It is natural for teachers to fear a video might catch them looking foolish in the classroom, but that could happen even without the policy, officials say.

Clark said teachers are told during staff training each year to act as though they are always being recorded, given the prevalence of smartphones and the ease of secretly using them.

And for students who don't follow the rules, there is still the threat of a trip to the principal's office.

"If (students) don't meet expectations, there'll be consequences," Princeton High School principal Dustin Evans said.

In Weatherford ISD, three schools piloted a BYOT program this year, and the district plans to expand the program next year.

The district requires students to register their devices with the school, and they must log in to a separate server for Wi-Fi access than the one used for teacher access.

Weatherford students are primarily using their devices for in-class assignments and research. Derik Moore, director of communications for Weatherford ISD, said the policy has saved the district money because it has to purchase fewer computers for student use.

"The numerous positives outweigh the minor negatives of this Bring Your Own Technology," he said.

Ultimately, school officials say, making sure students learn how to use technology responsibly should be a goal of these policies.

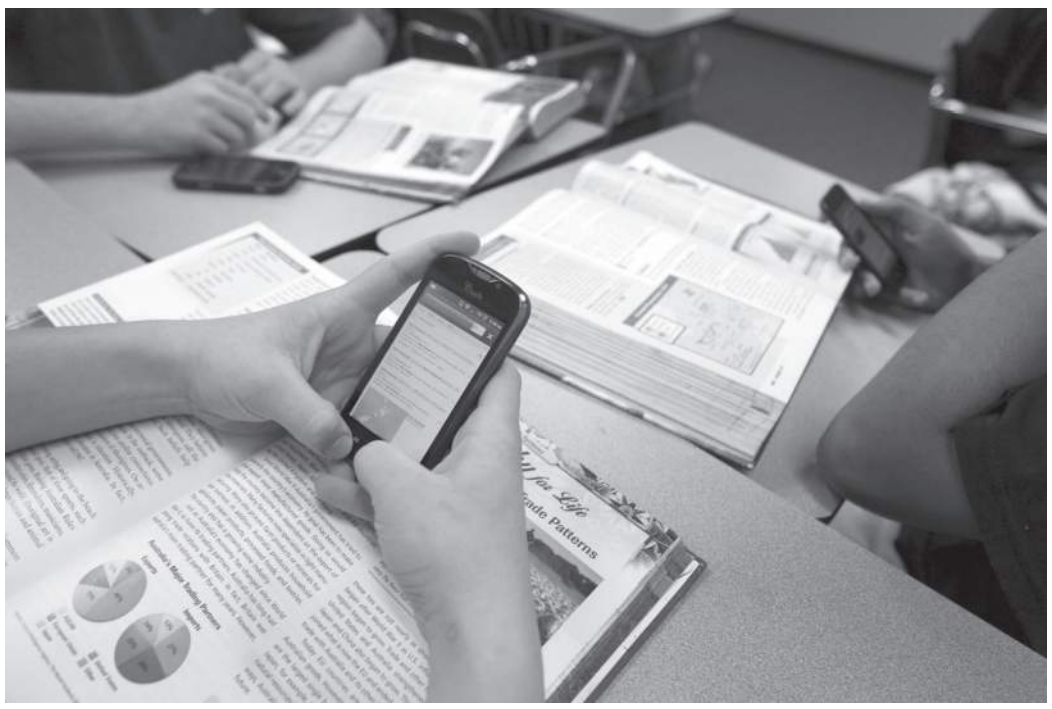
"We have to teach digital citizenship," Moore said. "That's where teachers come into play because they're helping."

MCT

Teacher Kyle Watkins, left, and ninth grader Jacob Williams look over information on a smart phone during world geography at Princeton High School in Princeton, Texas, on April 27, 2012.

MCT

Gabrialla Fraide uses her smart-phone to record video of a chemistry lesson at Princeton High School in Princeton, Texas, on April 27, 2012. The school has launched a program allowing students to take video and audio recordings of classes.



MCT

Ninth grader Tyler Jackson uses his smart phone to seek out information on New Zealand during world geography at Princeton High School in Princeton, Texas, on April 27, 2012.

Life&Style

Prince Philip in hospital, misses jubilee concert

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Britain's Prince Charles, centre, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, center left, are joined on stage by performers at the conclusion of the Queen's Jubilee Concert in front of Buckingham Palace, London, Monday, June 4, 2012.

LONDON (AP)—Elton John sang "I'm Still Standing," Stevie Wonder crooned "Isn't She Lovely," and Paul McCartney sent "All My Loving" as musical royalty celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's 60-year reign with a concert outside Buckingham Palace on Monday. But the joy was tempered by news that the queen's husband, Prince Philip, had been hospitalized with a bladder infection.

Palace officials said the prince, who will turn 91 on Saturday, was taken to the King Edward VII Hospital in London from Windsor Castle on Monday as a precaution and will remain under observation for a few days.

As the Diamond Jubilee show ended, Prince Charles took the stage and encouraged concertgoers to make some noise for his father. The crowd responded with a roar and chants of "Philip."

The heir to the throne paid tribute to his mother, addressing her as "Your Majesty—Mummy" and leading the crowd in three cheers for the monarch.

Despite Philip's illness, many members of the royal family, including Charles, his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and Princes William and Harry sat in a royal box to watch the show, performed on a specially erected stage outside the palace.

The queen was cheered as she arrived partway through the show, wearing a gold lame cocktail dress under a dark cape. It was decided before Philip's illness that she would watch only part of the concert.

The queen is not a noted pop music fan, and appeared to be wearing yellow ear plugs as she observed the concert.

Some 12,000 contest winners watched the show from an enclosed area, while a huge crowd stretched down the Mall, the wide boulevard leading up to the palace.

The lineup featured a full hand of knights—McCartney, John, Cliff Richard and Tom Jones, all "Sirs"—along with Dame Shirley Bassey and younger artists including JLS and Kylie Minogue.

The show opened in a blaze of sound and color, as a scarlet-clad military band joined Robbie Williams onstage for his hit "Let Me Entertain You." Black Eyed Peas star Will.i.am performed "I Gotta Feeling" with songstress Jessie J.

In true something-for-everyone mode, performances ranged from pianist Lang Lang playing Gershwin to American soprano Renee Fleming to 64-year-old Grace Jones hula-hooping her way through "Slave to the Rhythm."

Performers from around the world sang a special jubilee song written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and "Take That"'s Gary Barlow.

It was the veteran entertainers who went down best. The crowd roared along to Cliff Richard's "Congratulations," and cheered Bassey singing—fittingly—"Diamonds are Forever." Prince Harry could be seen singing along—"Why, why why?"—as Tom Jones belted out "Delilah," while Prince William and his wife Catherine joined in on John's "Crocodile Rock."

Ska band Madness performed 80s hit "Our House" on the palace roof, changing the lyrics to "Our house, in the middle of one's street."

The queen may not like to rock'n'roll but she has plenty of fans among rock's elite.

Before the show, Elton John paid tribute to the monarch's constancy.

"She's not trendy, she doesn't follow any fads," John told the BBC. "She's stoic, she's brilliant, she's wise, she's funny, and we're all really happy to be here."

McCartney closed the concert playing "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" on a Union Jack guitar before the queen took the stage with her family—but without Philip, who until Monday had been her constant companion throughout the jubilee celebrations.

He had joined the queen and senior royals on the River Thames in cold and blustery weather Sunday for a pageant in honor of Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne

The prince, who married then-Princess Elizabeth in 1947, has cut back on official engagements in recent years but still maintains a busy schedule. He spent four nights in the hospital over Christmas after suffering chest pains and underwent a successful coronary stent procedure to clear a blocked artery.

The palace said Philip was "understandably, disappointed about missing this evening's Diamond Jubilee Concert," as well as a St. Paul's Cathedral service and other jubilee events planned for Tuesday.

"I'm very sorry he's going to miss the concert because he's really part of the celebration," said Canadian tourist Marielle Demorsce. "He's part of the 60 years, he's put in a lot of work with the queen to appear all over the world and we love him too so very much."

The jubilee was being marked around the world in members of the 54-nation Commonwealth of former British colonies.

At the end of the concert, the queen lit the last in a chain of more than 4,200 commemorative beacons that have been set alight in Britain and abroad.

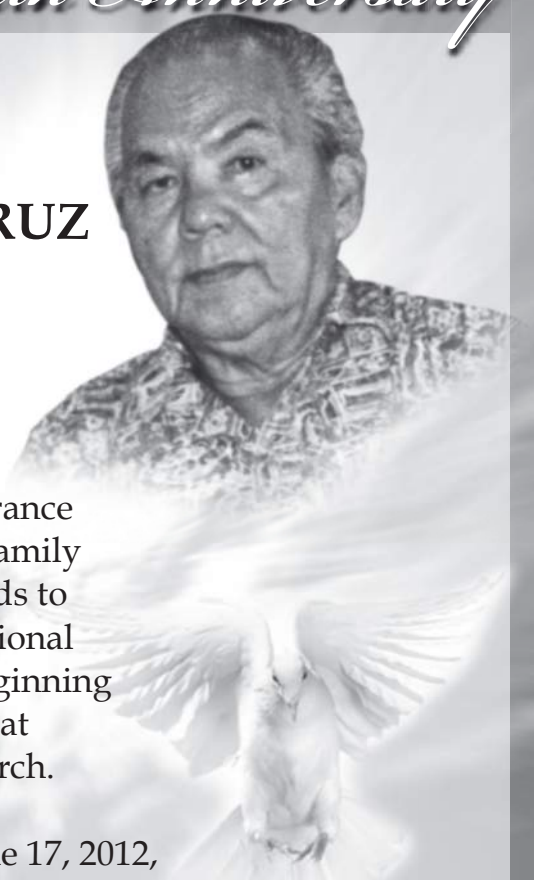
One beacon was lit in Kenya at the Treetops Hotel, where Elizabeth was informed of her father's death in 1952, making her the queen.

Although not everyone has embraced the jubilee—anti-monarchists have protested, and some 2 million Britons used the four-day holiday weekend to leave the country—many said it gave them a sense of pride.

"Sixty years on the throne is a remarkable achievement," said 47-year-old Dean Caston, who joined the crowds outside the palace on Monday. "People knock Britain and how depressed we are, but this weekend you can see we have got a lot to be proud of."

Fifth Year Death Anniversary

Remembering…
DOMINGO CASTRO DELA CRUZ
Lovingly known as
"DOMING"



Five years ago, our beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather in remembrance of his passing away, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us as we begin the traditional nine days of daily masses beginning June 9 through June 17, 2012 at 6:00 am at the Kristo-Rai church.

On the final day, Sunday, June 17, 2012, breakfast will be served immediately after the mass at the Kristo-Rai Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.

From: Rita & Tony, Jovie & Pete, Pres & Don, Bert & Joe, Ben & Ellie, Joe & Annie, Liz & Frank, Pat & Don, Ray & Che, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Olsen twins get fashion's big prize

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen took home the biggest prize at the annual Council of Fashion Designers of America awards. The former child TV stars were selected Monday night as the country's top womenswear designers for their collection called The Row.

"I'd like to thank you—you," Mary-Kate, wearing an all-black ensemble, said, turning to her purple-clad twin, as she accepted.

Jessica Chastain, who wore a sparkly white dress by Prabal Gurung, announced the 25-year-olds as winners at Lincoln Center in front of an audience that drew not only from the fashion world but also from Hollywood.

"Mad Men's" Jessica Pare gave Reed Krakoff his trophy as best designer of accessories, and "White Collar's" Matt Bomer gave menswear designer Billy Reid his.

The previously announced style icon award went to Johnny Depp, but he was on the set of "The Lone Ranger" and didn't attend. He sent an email—and filmmaker friend John Waters—in his place.

Standing in front of a collage of Depp's outfits over the years, Waters said, "This man can't look ugly no matter how hard he tries."

Waters also accepted the international award on behalf of Tokyo-based Rei Kawakubo, who won honors as an international designer for her often creative, balloonlike silhouettes created for the label Comme des Garcons. Waters said he was a fan of her clothes—and she also was a personal friend.

AP

Ashley Olsen, left, and Mary Kate Olsen, designers of The Row, pose backstage after winning Womenswear Designer of the Year at the CFDA Fashion Awards on Monday, June 4, 2012 in New York.

However, he joked, some people might describe her clothes as "disaster at the dry-cleaner," rattling off the slew of warnings often found on washing labels.

Ceremony host Seth Meyers, who started the night in a suit by Band of Outsiders, took on many targets, from John Galliano to Marc Jacobs. After making fun of Jacobs' sheer lace "dress" worn over boxer shorts to last month's fashion gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the industry's other important red carpet event, Meyers proceeded to put on the get-up later in the show.

Using what he called fashion terminology, Meyers described the outfit as "breezy."

And, no matter, he joked, if all the designers and models in the auditorium didn't like his act. "Fashion people like hating things more than they do liking things."

In presenting Tommy Hilfiger with his lifetime achievement award, Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour said the designer could be pretty funny, especially in his imitations of famous people such as Karl Lagerfeld, Donna Karan and even Mick Jagger.

"As long as you're not imitating me, we're all good," the famously serious Wintour said.

CFDA president Diane von Furstenberg gave a shoutout to all the designers who have been members of the organization, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. "I'm the mother of all American designers. I can't pick a favorite child."

The CFDA also presents a series of awards sponsored by Swarovski to up-and-coming talent: Joseph Altuzarra won in the women's category, Phillip Lim in men's and Tabitha Simmons in accessories.

On the red carpet, Jason Wu came with Jessica Stam, and Zac Posen with Crystal Renn. Proenza Schouler designers Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez escorted Dakota Fanning, who wore an asymmetrical brocade dress.

Karen Elson wore a slashed-bodice green dress by Proenza Schouler, and Doutzen Kroes wore a black gown with a choker collar by Sophie Theallet,

Gurung said the black dress with sheer inserts he made for Zoe Saldana was a one of a kind.

Michael Kors walked in with Joan Smalls, who wore a cream-colored tank dress—the very first one she tried on for the event.

Kors said it wasn't bad having a model on his arm. "Joan is gorgeous, smart and has the same name as my mother."

'Prometheus' a gorgeous, intense trip

This film image released by 20th Century Fox shows a scene from "Prometheus."

AP

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

MOVIE REVIEW

Nothing could possibly satisfy the fervent expectation that has built for Ridley Scott's sorta-prequel to his genre-defining "Alien," but "Prometheus," the director's return to science fiction for the first time in 30 years, comes close.

Strikingly beautiful, expertly paced, vividly detailed and scary as hell, it holds you in its grip for its entirety and doesn't let go. You'll squeal, you'll squirm—at one point, I was curled up in a little ball in my seat in a packed screening room—and you'll probably continue feeling a lingering sense of anxiety afterward. That's how effective it is in creating and sustaining an intensely suspenseful mood.

But the further you get away from outer-space journey, the more you may begin to notice some problems with the plot—both specific, nagging holes and a general narrative fuzziness. Describing some of them would give too much away, and we wouldn't dream of doing that. We'll just say that Scott and writers Damon Lindelof (executive producer of "Lost") and Jon Spaihts vaguely touch on the notions of belief vs. science and creation vs. Darwinism, philosophical debates that never feel fully developed.

Still, the performances are excellent, especially from Michael Fassbender as a robot with the looks and impeccable manners of an adult but the innocence and troublemaking instincts of a child. His character, the genteel, fair-haired David, serves as an homage to Scott's own work as he calls to mind Ian Holm's android Ash from the original "Alien." His eerily calm, precise demeanor also is reminiscent of the HAL 9000 computer program in "2001: A Space Odyssey," and the pop-culture influences that shape David's habits and speech are a clever celebration of the power of classic cinema in general. ("Prometheus" probably will not go on to be considered one of Scott's classics in the same category as "Alien" and "Blade Runner," but you've got to admire its ambition.)

David is part of a crew of space explorers traveling to a remote moon on a trillion-dollar mission in the year 2093, hoping to find answers to nothing less than the origin of mankind on Earth. (Don't they know they should have been looking in central Texas? That's where Terrence Malick searched in "The Tree of Life.")

Noomi Rapace, star of the original "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" films, continues to forge a strong screen presence as Dr. Elizabeth Shaw, a scientist who has managed to find a balance between her religious faith and her work-related discoveries. She and her boyfriend, the more spiritually skeptical Charlie Holloway (Logan Marshall-Green), have found signs in spots around the globe that aliens visited tens of thousands of years ago and left us an invitation to swing by and say howdy whenever we had a chance.

That's what they think, at least.

The rest of the crew includes Charlize Theron, radiating icy intimidation as the administrator from the private corporation funding the trip, and Idris Elba as the ship's sexy, smart-alecky captain. Everyone else is probably a goner. If you've ever seen this kind of movie, you know this is not a spoiler.

When they all finally awaken from their two-year sleep and arrive at this gorgeously severe land, they (naturally) stumble upon secrets and perils they never could have imagined. Some of them are gooey. That's about all we'll say about that because you really should experience it all for yourself.

But the paranoia becomes palpable, and a lot of its impact comes from how dramatic and dazzlingly seamless the special effects are. Scott makes crisp, immersive use of 3-D in "Prometheus," providing encounters that would seem too close for comfort anyway with a nerve-wracking sense of claustrophobia.

The reason for the journey may seem a bit muddled, but what happens once they get there is undeniably powerful.

"Prometheus," a Twentieth Century Fox release, is rated R for sci-fi violence including some intense images, and brief language. Running time: 123 minutes. ✪✪✪

Microsoft unveils new streaming, sharing app at E3

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Xbox 360 is getting a little smarter.

Microsoft Corp. kicked off the Electronic Entertainment Expo on Monday by unveiling new software called Xbox SmartGlass that will allow Xbox 360 users to stream and share content across smartphones, tablets and TVs. It also announced that it was bringing its Internet Explorer browser to the console this fall.

"Internet Explorer coupled with the power of Xbox will, for the first time, deliver a fast, fluid, intuitive Web experience in the living room," said Xbox Live corporate vice president Marc Whitten.

SmartGlass was demonstrated in several ways, turning a smartphone into a remote control used to surf the Web on a TV and utilizing a tablet as a way to display information about games, TV shows and movies that were simultaneously being played on a TV. Microsoft said the app would be available later this year for Windows phones, Windows 8 and "other portable devices."

The feature is similar to the Wii U from Nintendo Co. The upcoming high-definition console will feature a touchscreen controller, which Nintendo announced Sunday would be called the Wii U GamePad. The controller provides different methods and perspectives to interact and play games on screen, as well as the ability to play games and browse the Web without the TV.

When it came to games, Microsoft used its E3 event to hype new installments of "Halo" and "Forza" and reveal new "Gears of War" and "Dance Central" editions, as well the completely new titles "Ascend: New Gods," "LocoCycle" and "Matter" from "Pirates of the Caribbean" director-producer Gore Verbinski.

Microsoft's flashy E3 press conference featured a few celebrity appearances. Usher performed "Scream" with several backup dancers to promote his collaboration on the choreography game "Dance Central 3," Joe Montana made calls for "Madden NFL 13" using the camera-based Kinect system's voice-recognition capabilities and "South Park" creators Matt Parker and Trey Stone introduced their game, "South Park: The Stick of Truth."

"How many times have you been watching an episode of `South Park' and thought, `I'd like to watch this on my television, while hooked into my mobile device, which is being controlled by my tablet device, which is hooked into my oven—all while sitting in the refrigerator," joked Parker. "Well, we're not doing that. We're just doing this game."

Microsoft said its voice-recognition ability for Kinect would be available in 12 more countries, and that it secured 35 new partnerships with the likes of the NBA, NHL, Univision and Viacom Inc. to provide content on Xbox 360. The company also announced it was launching a new online music service called Xbox Music.

Janet Jackson to produce transgender documentary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Janet Jackson has signed on as an executive producer of a documentary on the lives of transgender people living around the world.

New York-based Brainchild Films announced Monday that Jackson was working on "Truth" and would do some of the on-camera interviews. The documentary begins production this summer and will focus on the lives and struggles of transgender persons.

Jackson writes in a statement that she is working on the project to try to stop discrimination of the transgender community.

The 46-year-old sister of Michael Jackson has starred in several films and won five Grammy Awards.

"Truth" will be directed by Robert Jason, who previously directed a documentary for The Style Network on four transgender New Yorkers. He says "Truth" will feature stories from throughout North America, Europe, Australia and Latin America.

AP

In this Thursday, May 10, 2012 file photo, singer Janet Jackson attends photographer Marco Glaviano's "Supermodels" exhibition at the Keszler Gallery, in New York.

Paris Hilton tries to settle NYC lingerie lawsuit

AP

Paris Hilton arrives at federal court in lower Manhattan on Monday, June 4, 2012, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Paris Hilton is trying to make peace in her legal battle in New York City with an Italian lingerie maker.

The socialite appeared in federal court in Manhattan on Monday for closed-door settlement talks in a lawsuit brought by Le Bonitas.

The company sued Hilton in 2010 over a licensing agreement for a line of lingerie. It claims she hurt business by not signing off on its designs quickly enough.

In a countersuit, Hilton accused the company of trying to avoid paying $1.5 million it owes her.

Both sides left court without announcing a settlement.

Cissy Houston writing book about Whitney

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney Houston's triumphant, heartbreaking life is being remembered in a book by her mother, singer Cissy Houston.

Houston has a deal with HarperCollins for a memoir it says will reveal the "unabridged and unbelievable story" of her Grammy Award-winning daughter, who died in a Beverly Hills, Calif., hotel bathtub in February at age 48. HarperCollins announced Monday that the currently untitled book is scheduled to come out next February.

"When I lost my daughter Nippy (Whitney Houston's nickname), the world lost one of the most beautiful voices and an extraordinarily beautiful and charitable woman," Cissy Houston said in a statement released by HarperCollins. "In sharing our story in this book, I hope to give her fans something to treasure, the way we all treasured Whitney. We are still receiving thousands of letters each day from her fans, and I hope reading this book will provide a deeper understanding into my daughter's true story.

Financial terms haven't been disclosed. But a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J., where Whitney Houston, whose many hits included "The Greatest Love of All" and "I Will Always Love You," sang as a child and where her funeral was held.

Cissy Houston had met with several publishers, and the book deal could be worth seven figures.

According to HarperCollins, Cissy Houston will write with "candor, honesty and respect" about her daughter's remarkable career and about her drug problems and her marriage to Bobby Brown. Cissy Houston also will reflect on her own grief.

"She will tell the unabridged and unbelievable story of her daughter's life as well as her own, addressing Whitney's brightest and darkest moments while helping fans around the world understand the complexities of this extraordinary star who died much too soon," the publisher announced.

"Ultimately, Cissy will go behind the headlines to show the true, human side of this strong, successful yet complicated musical icon, capturing the dramatic depths and soaring range of an extraordinary woman, along with the pain and heartbreak of a grieving mother as she struggles with impossible loss."

Cissy Houston recently released a new album of gospel tunes, her first new music in more than a decade. "Walk on By Faith" was released by Harlem Records on iTunes last month and includes songs such as "Living Shall Not Be In Vain."

She wrote a memoir, "How Sweet the Sound," in 1998.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Baldwin helps NY school raise sports money

CAMILLUS, N.Y. (AP)—Alec Baldwin wants to make sure students at a central New York school have the opportunity to get outside and play ball. Local media outlets report that the actor was in the Syracuse area this past weekend to help a local high school's fundraising campaign to save its modified sports program. The star of "30 Rock" attended an event held Sunday in the gym at West Genesee High School, where one of his nephews plays sports. Baldwin's mother and two sisters live in the Syracuse area. Baldwin grew up on Long Island, where his father was a high school football and baseball coach. He donated $25,000 to save modified sports at West Genesee this school year and is helping raise money for next year's programs.

'Spartacus' to end revolutionary run next season

NEW YORK (AP)—Starz network says it is ending its highly successful "Spartacus" saga next season. In an unusual move announced Monday, Starz will conclude this action-adventure series while it's still a big hit, and after logging only three seasons (or four, counting a "prequel" season). This season the series drew six million viewers, an enormous number for a paid subscription channel. Creator-executive producer Steven S. DeKnight promises a "stunningly epic" final season. That 10-episode cycle, which will kick off next January, is currently filming in New Zealand. The series stars Liam McIntyre as the Thracian-slave-turned-revolutionary who's out to topple the Roman Empire. McIntyre took over the role from Andy Whitfield, who starred the first season, then withdrew due to illness. He died of cancer in September 2011.

ABC filling 'Glass House' with 14 contestants

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The list of contestants for ABC's "The Glass House" is out, although a legal challenge looms over the upcoming reality show. ABC said Monday that 14 people including a bail bondsman, a scientist and a bar mitzvah DJ will become housemates and compete for a $250,000 prize. Audience feedback will help shape the contestants' daily life and who stays in the game. CBS, however, is seeking an injunction blocking the airing of "Glass House," alleging it violates copyrights and trade secrets from its show "Big Brother." ABC has denied wrongdoing, saying the two shows have numerous differences. A date for the injunction hearing has yet to be scheduled. "The Glass House" is set to debut June 18 on ABC.

Woman who's happily single wants to keep it that way

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 28-year-old, newly single female who has never been happier. I've had a couple of long-term relationships that didn't turn out well, so my quiet, uncomplicated life is refreshing. All I'm looking for now is to make new friends and enjoy myself.

A few guys have asked me for my phone number—usually through social networking—and have suggested getting together for a couple of drinks. As nice as that would be, the last thing I want to do is lead anyone on or give him the wrong impression. When I do decide to start looking, it will be for no one less than my Prince Charming, and I don't regard any of these men as that. Going out with girlfriends is hard because they're mostly married with children.

What and when is the best way to tell guys that, as much as I enjoy their company, I am looking only for friendship at this time? I live in a relatively small town, so going out with different men on a regular basis gives people the wrong idea about me.

WANTS ONLY FRIENDSHIP IN MICHIGAN

DEAR WANTS ONLY FRIENDSHIP: I understand your feelings, but please allow me to point out that meeting Prince Charming can be an accident of luck and timing. In addition to that, he doesn't always come dashing forth on a white horse—sometimes it's an old clunker.

If you announce to any man who asks you out for a couple of drinks that you're interested only in friendship, he will interpret it as rejection, so I don't advise you to make that your lead sentence. A better retort might be that rather than going out for drinks, you'd prefer to start with coffee and conversation. Who knows? The longer he talks, the more attractive he may become. Stranger things have happened.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old daughter, "Roxanne," is attending college in a big city known for its crime rate, unemployment and despair. She lives alone in an apartment just off campus. She's a smart girl, careful and cautious, but I still worry about her to the point of sleepless nights and a general feeling of "when" something will happen—not if.

Roxanne's apartment was broken into last Christmas. Thankfully, she wasn't there at the time. Since then, my worry has intensified—especially if I don't hear from her for a few hours. We usually text or call each other at least once a day. If I don't hear from her, I panic.

My husband calls me a professional worrier and says I need to trust that our daughter is safe. I don't think I'll ever NOT worry about her, and the truth is I really want her to move back home. I realize this would be counterproductive to her achieving success, but I don't know how to let go of the worry. I need advice, Abby. Is this just a "mom thing" or should I seek help?

HALF-CRAZED MOM IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MOM: It's a "mom thing" taken to the extreme. One of the reasons that children go away to college is so they—and their parents—can learn to live independently from each other. For you to expect your daughter to call or text you at least once a day feeds your dependence on her. It appears you suffer from a case of parental hypervigilance—and yes, for both your sakes, you should seek professional help.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

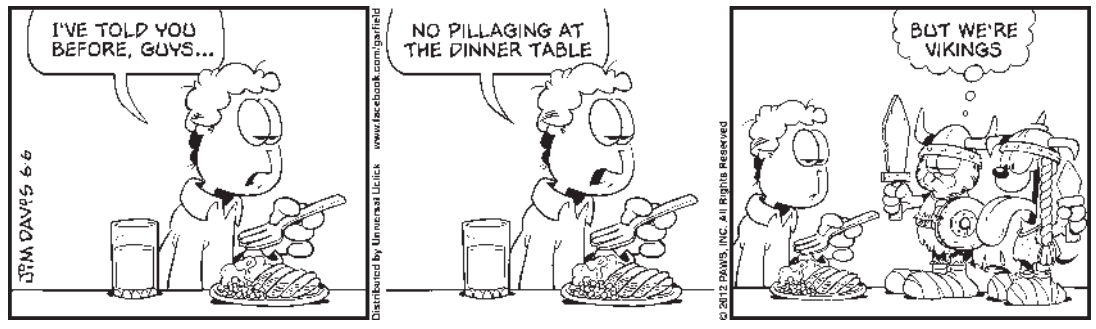
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WE'RE BACK, BUT WE DIDN'T GET THE HOMEWORK.
NOW IT'S 8:30 AGAIN AND WE'RE DOOMED.
HERE YOU GO! HOBBES AND I WROTE A STORY FOR YOU WHILE YOU WERE GONE!
YOU DID?!?
HA HA! WE'RE ALL DONE! WE CAN GO BACK TO 6:30 NOW! THANKS, HOBBESES! YOU GUYS ARE LIFE SAVERS!
CALVIN?
IT'S MOM! HURRY! HOBBES, GET IN!
WE'LL BE YOU IN A COUPLE HOURS! SO LONG!
AREN'T YOU IN BED YET?
DON'T COME IN! I'M...UH.. CHANGING INTO MY PJs!
TIME MACHINE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, GUYS...
NO PILLAGING AT THE DINNER TABLE
BUT WE'RE VIKINGS
JIM DAVIS 6-6
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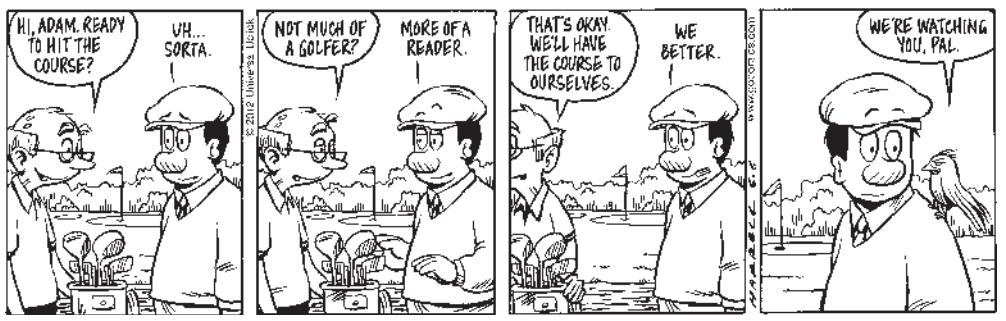
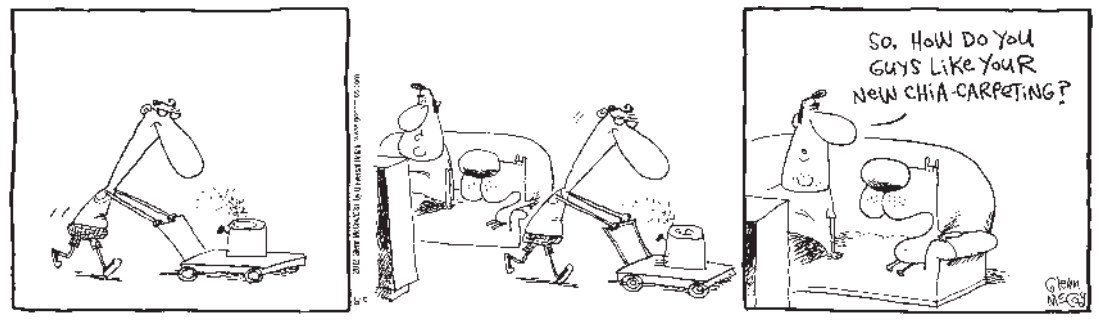
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI, ADAM. READY TO HIT THE COURSE?
UH... SORTA.
NOT MUCH OF A GOLFER?
MORE OF A READER.
THAT'S OKAY. WE'LL HAVE THE COURSE TO OURSELVES.
WE BETTER.
WE'RE WATCHING YOU, PAL.
© 2012 Universal Uclick
MARCH 6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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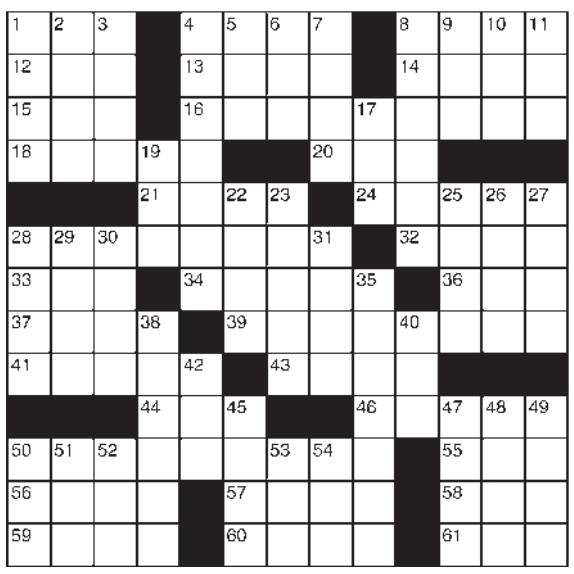
39 Site
41 Milkmaid's perch
43 Part of SMU (Abbr.)
44 Unseld of basketball fame
46 Column style
50 Hobby
55 Praise in verse
56 Volcanic outflow
57 Redact
58 Fa follower
59 And others (Abbr.)
60 Horseback game
61 Right angle

DOWN
1 Wading bird
2 50-Down ingredient
3 Wan
4 List after a movie
5 Scuttle
6 Ostrich's kin
7 Bottle feature
8 Small bus
9 Foreman foe
10 Life story, briefly
11 D.C. title
17 Pick a target
19 Historic time
22 Use a rotary phone
23 Gomorrah's sister city
25 Rani's raiment
26 Hodgepodge
27 Night light?
28 Wedding exchange
29 Aid and —
30 "Arrivederci"
31 Respectable
35 Corrode
38 Diet-friendly
40 However, in verse
42 Meadow
45 Dance lesson
47 Schnozz
48 "American —"
49 Honeycomb compartment
50 Hearty brew
51 Cistern
52 Eggs
53 "— not choose to run"
54 Lubricate

Solution time: 21 mins.

N	I	C	E	■	B	U	S	T	■	L	A	T
I	R	O	N	■	O	P	A	H	■	E	G	O
I	A	N	D	S	I.	I	D	F	■	N	U	T
■	■	■	A	T	O	N	■	R	O	D	E	O
S	I	L	L	Y	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	■
A	R	I	L	■	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
F	A	N	■	P	A	G	A	N	■	E	R	E
E	N	D	E	A	V	O	R	■	S	A	G	A
■	■	■	A	C	R	E	■	■	A	P	R	O	N
E	T	H	O	S	■	A	I	D	A	■	■	■
L	O	U	■	L	O	N	D	O	N	E	H	S
S	E	N	■	E	R	N	E	■	K	A	Y	O
E	S	I	■	Y	E	A	S	■	S	I	E	W

Yesterday's answer 6-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Morales, 40; Paul Giamatti, 45; Max Casella, 45; Robert Englund, 65.

Happy Birthday: Do your due diligence regarding your financial, legal or medical well-being. Take advantage of whatever openings are available to you. Pondering will lead to loss, but sizing up a situation quickly and making a move will open up new possibilities and ventures. Anger and frustration will lead to mishaps. Stay calm and keep moving. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 23, 28, 32, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Separate your emotions from your business dealings. Don't give an old flame a second thought. Any personal change you make should be looking forward, not backward. A connection with someone who shares your interests will bring in more cash. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discuss alternatives with those your decisions will affect, and you will find a way to proceed without opposition. Travel, if it will help close a deal or get better acquainted with a situation you face. Discipline and hard work will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take greater interest in what's going on around you. Pitch in and you will raise your profile and enhance your reputation. Take on a challenge, but don't take chances. Prepare properly, give it your best shot and excel. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Listen to suggestions being made and you will recognize how much you have to offer and how little help you need. Change may be daunting, but once you get moving, you will impress everyone with your ability to adapt and proceed. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Participation will open windows of opportunity, both personally and professionally. Share what you have to offer mentally, emotionally and physically and you'll develop a long-lasting relationship with someone special. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully to what's being said. Problems will occur if you aren't precise about what you can and cannot do. Concentrate on doing the best job possible, and avoid unpredictable or unreliable people. Physical activity will relieve stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do whatever it takes to boost your confidence or make you feel good, look good and be your best. Visiting a friend, lover or relative will bring you closer together. Don't waste time or money. Set a budget and stick to it. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on creating a space at home that is conducive to productivity. A hobby, pastime or interest can turn into a moneymaker. Present and promote what you have to offer. A partnership with someone you care about will be reinforced. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your main interest should be on making partnerships work. Change your home environment if it isn't conducive to what you want to achieve. Expect confusion or delays while traveling. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get together with old friends, or visit a place you haven't experienced for a long time. The memories you resurrect will remind you of old goals you can incorporate into new opportunities. Invest in something you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pay more attention to your surroundings. The people and places around you will make a significant difference to the way you handle your personal and professional life. Love is in the stars and should influence a lifestyle choice you make. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do your part, but don't overdo it. Participating is one thing, but being taken advantage of is another. Disagreements will develop if you don't set boundaries. Equality is a must if you are going to work in conjunction with others. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have an active mind and a determined will. You are unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	3				8	5
	7					9		
2					5			
7					4			
8					2			
4	9	6			7	1	5	
1			5		3			6
3			6		9			7
	6	5				3	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	4	7	2	1	6	3	9
6	1	3	9	8	4	2	5	7
7	9	2	5	3	6	4	8	1
4	3	8	1	6	7	9	2	5
1	6	7	2	5	9	8	4	3
9	2	5	8	4	3	1	7	6
3	8	9	6	7	2	5	1	4
2	4	6	3	1	5	7	9	8
5	7	1	4	9	8	3	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FORGETFULNESS **Solution: 9 letters**

O	E	P	P	E	E	L	S	L	A	G	I	N	G	M
E	V	R	A	R	K	E	O	B	S	A	E	M	I	I
S	L	E	R	S	T	S	S	M	E	M	O	R	Y	S
I	O	O	R	A	S	E	A	E	T	E	S	R	U	P
O	S	C	D	W	N	W	S	T	O	R	A	G	E	L
N	N	C	I	T	H	D	O	I	Ⓝ	Ⓐ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	O	A
U	O	U	S	S	S	E	S	R	Y	E	N	O	M	C
M	B	P	T	I	S	L	L	W	D	I	S	A	F	E
B	L	I	R	L	E	K	A	M	T	E	D	E	T	Y
E	I	E	A	U	R	N	I	U	I	R	S	W	E	R
R	V	D	C	N	D	N	O	L	S	N	J	O	K	E
S	I	E	T	C	D	R	I	H	L	A	G	R	C	C
Y	O	E	E	H	A	N	I	A	P	S	C	K	I	O
E	U	P	D	R	E	A	M	Y	R	O	T	S	T	R
K	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	E	L	B	A	N	U	G

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Absent, Address, Aging, Brain, Casual, Dates, Distracted, Dreamy, Errands, Game, Grocery, Joke, Keys, List, Loose, Loss, Lunch, Memory, Misplace, Money, Name, Noise, Notes, Numbers, Oblivious, Overwhelming, Pain, Password, Phone, Preoccupied, Process, Purse, Routine, Safe, Skills, Sleep, Solve, Speed, Storage, Story, Task, Ticket, Unable, Work, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Overtime

The NEW Treasury 12 can be ordered by sending a check or money order for $11.95 each plus $3.00 postage and handling ($14.95 total) to: Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-4480. Order online at www.puzzlesociety.com. Canada residents please add 75 cents per book.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
2 - PHYSICAL THERAPIST
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Tel: 288-9583
Contact Person: **Mr. Kang**

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➤ Must have a U.S. Passport or Greencard.
➤ Willing to relocate/work in Hawaii.
Please send resume and contact information to: caregiver.670@gmail.com

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: June 4, 212 **POSITION:** Reservation Clerk
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in hotel reservations preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE: June 4, 2012 **POSITION:** Cook (Korean Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 4, 2012 **POSITION:** Cook (Western Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **ALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 4, 2012 **POSITION:** Steward
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. This position may require employee to receive certain food handler related health examinations and clearances before hire and continue to receive such examinations and clearances as a condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: June 04, 2012 **POSITION:** Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification is preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: June 04, 2012 **POSITION:** Server (Part-time)
CLOSE DATE: June 13, 2012 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

GARAGE SALE

Leaving Island, many household items to sell!

WHEN: Saturday, June 9, 2012
TIME: 8:00am
LOCATION: Red and white house on the hill behind the Big Blue water tank, in Papago at the intersection of Isa Drive and Mulberry Lane. House is located between Santos Acres and San Vicente Post Office. Signs will be posted for guide.

Call 483-5324 for directions.

Peter K. Roligat and Loreen C. Tagabuel
P.O. Box 505032
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 235-6455

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF **LEANA LYNN TAGABUEL ROLIGAT** Minor Child by MIKE ELIAS KAIPAT and JENNIFER LISUA KAIPAT Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0209 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Mike Elias Kaipat and Jennifer Lisua Kaipat, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guam Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI before the Honorable Perry B. Inos on the 7th day of June, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert H. Myers Jr., Esq. (F0365)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 5190 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-8946
Fax (670) 234-8920

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF Justo Jeremiah Quitugua, A Minor Child, By, JUSTO SONGAO QUITUGUA and JACQUELINE AYUYU QUITUGUA.	Civil Action No. 12-0114-FCD **PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE PETITION of Justo Songao Quitugua and Jacqueline Ayuyu Quitugua seeking to be appointed as guardians of the minor child, Justo Jeremiah Quitugua has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on the 6 day of **June 2012** at the hour of **9:30 a.m.** The courtroom is number **217A**.

Any person who has any objection to this petition may file his of her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing, to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

Dated this **June 4, 2012**.

/s/ Robert H. Myers Jr., Esq. (F0365)
Attorney for Petitioners

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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Thunder beats Spurs to take 3-2 lead

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Look who's unstoppable now.

Forget that incredible San Antonio streak of 20 straight wins. That's ancient history, and the way the Oklahoma City Thunder have taken complete command of the Western Conference finals, the Spurs might soon be finished themselves.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points and the Thunder are on the brink of the NBA Finals, beating the Spurs 108-103 in Game 5 on Monday night and going from an 0-2 hole to moving within a victory of a series knockout. Their first chance will be Wednesday night at home, where they're unbeaten in the playoffs.

"We never thought we're supposed to wait our turn," Durant said. "Coach always emphasizes that with every opportunity that you step on the floor. It's a great opportunity to get better. To get to our dream."

Russell Westbrook added 23 and the Thunder took a 3-2 lead in a wildly entertaining Western Conference finals. Looking invincible while carrying a 20-game winning streak a week ago—the fourth-longest in NBA history—the Spurs have lost three straight and are on the verge of a stunning collapse.

Manu Ginobili scored 34 in a smashing return to the starting lineup, and the switch showed just how much Spurs coach Gregg Popovich knew his team might be in trouble. The only way the Spurs would have considered the move a success is had they won, and that chance went clanging off the back of the rim with 4.9 seconds left when Ginobili missed an off-balance 3.

Ginobili then walked to the scorer's table, made a fist and hammered it down.

"It wasn't a great shot, but it wasn't a bad one," Ginobili said. "It just didn't go in."

It was the Spurs first loss at home since April 11.

Popovich said he removed Danny Green from the starting lineup and plugged in Ginobili—who had started only seven previous times this season—to give the Spurs "an energy boost." But that didn't solve a third straight uneven game for the Spurs, particularly another languid second quarter that put them in a 14-point hole.

"If we don't get that straight," Popovich said, "it'll be over on Wednesday."

Oklahoma City, meanwhile, is bringing home just what they needed: the must-win on the road if they're going to pull this series out.

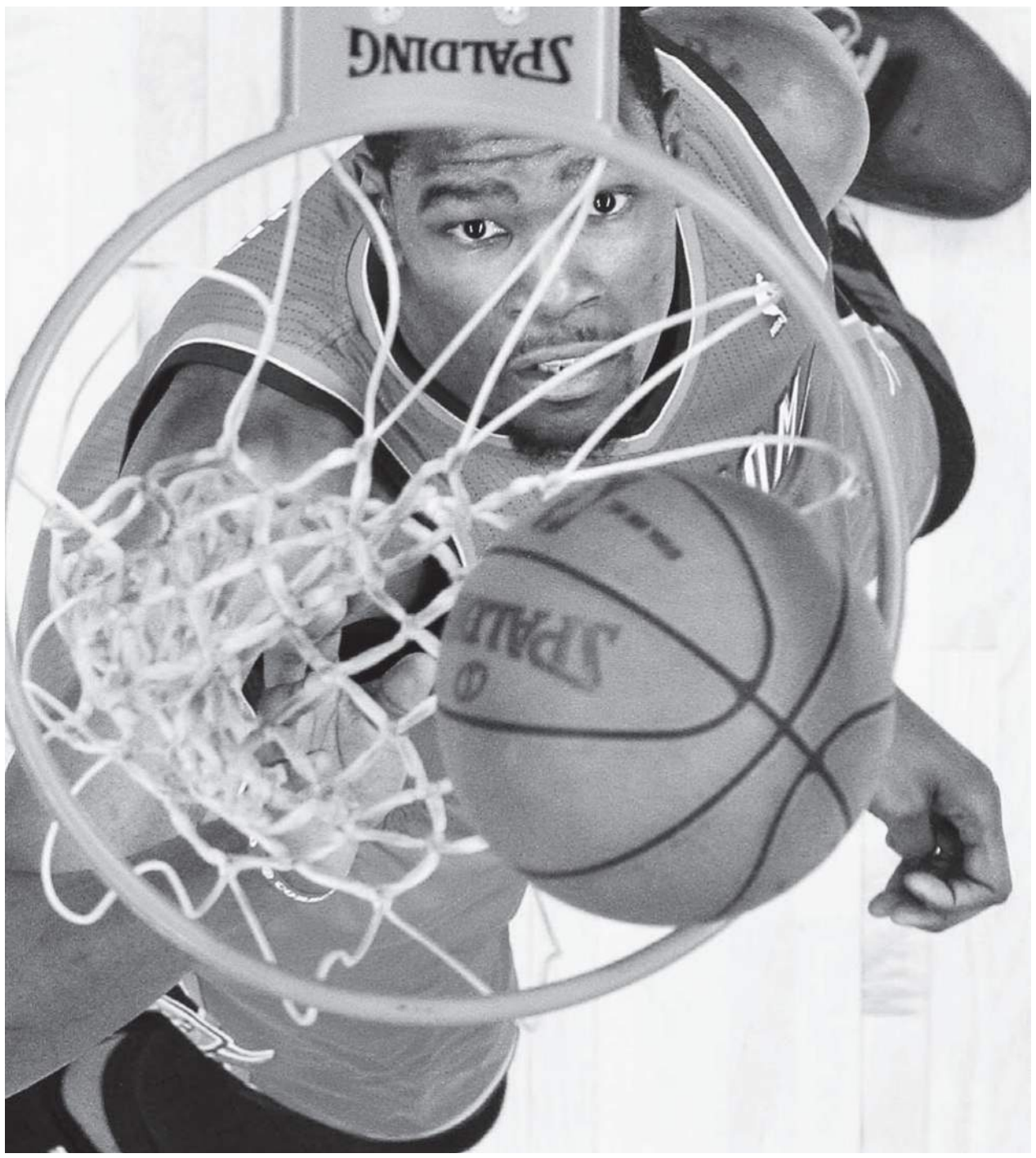
"That was a total team effort," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "Everybody did their job. I thought we played as hard as we can play."

Oklahoma City pulled it off behind their stars. James Harden scored 20, joining Durant and Westbrook as the only Thunder players in double figures.

Harden hit the biggest shot, draining a 3-pointer with 28.8 seconds left that pushed Oklahoma City's lead to five. He admitted afterward that the ball was supposed to go to Durant but had no choice but to let go with the shot clock winding down and Spurs rookie Kawhi Leonard in his face.

"The shot clock was running down and I had to make a play," Harden said. "Leonard was playing great defense on me. I just shot it with confidence. West Conference finals—that's a big shot."

Tony Parker had 20 points and Tim Duncan had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant watches his shot fall against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of Game 5 in the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Monday, June 4, 2012, in San Antonio.

After remaining unbeaten for 50 days before arriving in Oklahoma City, San Antonio has lost three games in five days. They now must win two straight to avoid seeing their last best chance to win in a title in the Duncan era end.

"Championship teams win on the road," Popovich said. "Oklahoma City just did that."

It's the first time the Spurs have lost three in a row all season.

Durant scored 22 of his points in the second half. He dedicated the win to his uncle, who Durant said was in the hospital.

Westbrook also had 12 assists.

Not wanting the series to slip away, Popovich moved Ginobili to the starting lineup in place of Green, who came in shooting a combined 8 of 28 in this series.

Green's days as a starter began looking numbered after Game 3. He couldn't save his job before leaving Oklahoma City—Green shot 4 of 12 in both losses combined—and Popovich couldn't wait any longer with the series tied and the season in the balance.

Out with the undrafted swingman who barely made training camp, and in with the former All-Star. Pulling this big an adjustment this deep in the season likely didn't come easy for the NBA coach of the year, and the gambit drew mixed results.

It looked like a no-brainer with Ginobili leading all scorers at halftime with 14, but new rotations for the Spurs made for rocky possessions. None more so than in the second quarter, when the Spurs shot 38 percent.

Ginobili finished 11 of 21 and made half of his 10 3-point attempts. But with the game and arguably San Antonio's season on the line, his last one didn't connect. "It's either win or go home," Ginobili said.

"It's our job. Nobody is going to feel sorry about ourselves."

Heat listing Bosh as 'day-to-day'

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh has been telling the Miami Heat that he's ready to play.

The Heat seem ready to listen.

And Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals—which wouldn't be lacking for drama with Boston and Miami tied at two games apiece—may have another significant layer of intrigue.

Bosh's status was upgraded to "day-to-day" by Heat coach Erik Spoelstra on Monday, the first deviation by the team after more than three weeks of simply saying his absence was indefinite because of a strained lower abdominal muscle. Spoelstra wouldn't guarantee that Bosh plays in Game 5, but opened the door to there at least being a chance of the All-Star forward-center suiting up.

"He'll get a vote," Spoelstra said of how much Bosh's input will matter in determining when he takes the floor. "Again, everything is heightened right now. These are extreme circumstances. Everybody will be involved in the decision, if and when it happens. But you always have to take the player's opinion with a grain of salt. They all say they're ready. ... He said he was ready 10 days ago."

The Celtics were ready for him then, too.

So if Tuesday is the Bosh comeback night, Boston will not be caught off-guard.

"We don't have to do anything different," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "We've prepared every game like Bosh is going to play. And eventually, he will."

Bosh was watching from the bench for the two games in Boston, where the Celtics managed to tie the series by following largely the same formula—building a big lead, then holding on at the end.

Of the 101 minutes of game time in Boston, the Heat led for exactly six minutes. The Celtics have led by at least 15 points in each of the last three games, never trailing by more than eight, though managed to win only two of those contests. And Game 4 nearly slipped away as well, Miami digging out of an 18-point hole to take the lead late, before falling 93-91 in overtime as Dwyane Wade's 3-pointer to win it fell just short at the final buzzer.

Boston's Paul Pierce fouled out for the third time in the last five games, after having that happen three times in the first 122 playoff games of his career. And Miami's LeBron James picked up six fouls for the first time in his 107 playoff games, none of the six fouls being of the shooting variety and four of them coming with the Heat in possession of the ball.

"I thought a few of my fouls were, I don't know," James said Sunday night.

Who fouled and when made for good theater, but all that ultimately mattered was the score, with Boston guard Rajon Rondo scoring the final three points of the game and the Celtics turning a best-of-seven series into a best-of-three.

"We've got to win a game in Miami, of course," Pierce said after Game 4. "We have a chance of winning this series. It's not going to be easy. You know, a good old classic bar fight. Going in to it you got to expect every game to be like this. Coming down to the wire, both teams trying to find an edge."

This core of Celtics—Rondo, Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, who seems to be playing without the pain that left him hobbling a week ago—have found themselves in a 2-2 series eight times before. Every time, they've won Game 5, though seven of those wins have come in Boston.

The exception was at Cleveland in 2010, a 120-88 romp that went down James' final home game as a member of the Cavaliers.

"No one said it was easy," James said. "This is great. This is what the postseason is all about. It's about adversity and ups and downs. Like I said, you never get too high and you never get too low. We look forward to Game 5."

They'll especially look forward to it if Bosh gets the all-clear sign on Tuesday. Bosh has had several on-court workouts in the past week, and Spoelstra said he was going to evaluate him again Monday.

Bosh was injured late in the first half of the opening game in the Indiana-Miami second round series on May 13. In the nine postseason games since, Miami has gone 5-4. If he can play, the Heat would welcome whatever Bosh can provide, even if that means working a key player back into the lineup to face Garnett and Boston's frontcourt in the midst of a playoff series.

"Chris is obviously very talented and poses his own problems, but I don't think Kevin is that concerned with whoever's there," Rivers said.

Since Bosh arrived with James to play alongside Wade in Miami in July 2010, the Heat have won 72 percent (116-45) of their games with him in the lineup. Without Bosh, Miami has won only 52 percent of the time, going 12-11.

"We couldn't win without him for two years. And not only could we not win without him, we looked horrible without him," Spoelstra said. "So I think that was the bigger challenge. If and when we ever get to that point, we'll gladly take that challenge. He was our most important player for a long period of time."

Sharapova stumbles to French Open win; Li loses

PARIS (AP)—On days like these, when so little goes right and so much goes awry, Maria Sharapova tosses away the strategies and scouting reports her coach devises and, well, does whatever it takes to win.

Locked in a three-set, 3-hour struggle at a wet and windy French Open on Monday, Sharapova's right, racket-swinging wrist was aching—and that, she insisted, was the least of her problems.

There was the tumble to her backside that Sharapova could laugh about later. The exasperating line calls, and what the second-seeded Russian considered an obstinate chair umpire. The 12 double-faults, plus 41 other errors of Sharapova's own doing. The nine breaks she allowed, including three while serving for the match. The unseeded foe who wouldn't go away.

"It was," Sharapova summed up, "a good test for me."

Certainly the first she's faced at Roland Garros this year. After dropping a total of five games in three matches that averaged less than an hour each, Sharapova moved into the quarterfinals at the only Grand Slam tournament she hasn't won by dispensing with tactics and swinging away until she finally pulled out a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory over 44th-ranked Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic.

"I'm useless with game plans. That's probably the one thing (coach Thomas Hogstedt) just gets so frustrated with me about," Sharapova said. "I go out there and I do my own thing, and then he's like, after the match, `Really? What's the point? I mean, what's the point of having me?' But I apologized when I hired him, in advance, so he's OK."

Hogstedt's take?

"It's good we have a day off tomorrow so we can step it up again," he said. "This was clearly a match where she was not playing as well as she should."

Hmm.

Sharapova and Hogstedt both said her wrist, which she repeatedly flexed during the match and fiddled with at her news conference afterward, shouldn't be an issue. Something else that might not be? The opposition. It seems that nearly every day a potential roadblock is swept out of the draw, from Serena Williams, to Francesca Schiavone, to Li Na.

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova falls as she plays Czech Republic's Klara Zakopalova during their fourth round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 4, 2012.

Indeed, Sharapova now has one thing in common with every woman left: None has won the French Open.

Her next opponent, No. 23 Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, hasn't been beyond the quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament but got to that round for the fourth time by defeating unseeded Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands 6-1, 4-6, 6-0.

Asked whether she thinks she can beat three-time major champion Sharapova, Kanepi replied: "If I play well, of course. Why not?"

Kanepi didn't indicate whether that was based on having seen Sharapova's error-strewn performance against Zakopalova on an afternoon when the temperature dipped into the 50s and the occasional drizzle fell. Sharapova said she jammed her wrist on a service return "but it should be fine. ... Nothing to worry about."

As for her second-set stumble, Sharapova chuckled and said: "That was my first fall of the clay season, which is the biggest shocker. I usually have a few before the French Open."

She was less amused by the work of chair umpire Julie Kjendlie of Norway, engaging in a couple of extended arguments about rulings.

"The first one was the most questionable one, I guess, because she couldn't find the mark. ... What do you say to that? You can't find the mark? I mean, it was like, `Well, isn't that your job?'... I mean, we're on clay courts. Usually when there is no mark, it means it's on the line," Sharapova said. "She had an answer for everything out there."

Defending champion Li's surprising exit came against Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan, an eyeglasses-wearing doubles specialist ranked 142nd in singles who needed to go through qualifying rounds to enter the main draw.

"I have to find the reason why I lose the match," said Li, China's only Grand Slam singles champion. "I will find out. But not today."

Shvedova dropped to her knees after taking the last 10 games to eliminate the seventh-seeded Li 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 and become the ninth qualifier to reach the French Open quarterfinals. She'd be the first to make it to the semifinals if she beats Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, who ended the career-best run of unseeded American Varvara Lepchenko 6-2, 6-1.

"Even if some thoughts come to my head, I will try to put them away and focus on what I need to do," said Shvedova, who won doubles titles at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open with Vania King of the U.S. in 2010.

There are no heartwarming, out-of-nowhere stories like hers among the remaining men. It's the first Grand Slam tournament since the 1984 French Open with all top six seeded men in the quarterfinals.

Rafael Nadal's pursuit of a record seventh French Open title rolled on with another rout, this one a 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 victory over his pal, Juan Monaco of Argentina, who's not exactly a slouch—he was seeded 13th and has won five clay-court titles.

But Nadal is 49-1 for his career at the French Open and might be better than ever. He's lost a total of 19 games so far, the fewest through four completed matches at Roland Garros since Guillermo Vilas' 16 games in 1982.

"I feel really comfortable, really at ease," Nadal said. "When the tournament is over, I'll tell you if this was my best Roland Garros or not. For the time being, I'm still playing. So far, so good. But we'll see. Things could change."

He'll take a 7-0 head-to-head record into an all-Spanish quarterfinal against No. 12 Nicolas Almagro, who beat No. 8 Janko Tipsarevic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

When three-time major finalist Andy Murray walked on court, he was booed by a partisan crowd pulling for France's Richard Gasquet. Murray ignored a poor start, a still-bothersome back and more taunting and teasing from fans to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2. Next for Murray is a quarterfinal against No. 6 David Ferrer, who overwhelmed No. 20 Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-2, 6-0.

In two matches halted in progress Sunday night by darkness, No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga finished off No. 18 Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, while No. 9 Juan Martin del Potro defeated No. 7 Tomas Berdych 7-6 (6), 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Aiming to be France's first male champion at a Grand Slam tournament since Yannick Noah in Paris in 1983, Tsonga now plays No. 1 Novak Djokovic on Tuesday in a rematch of the 2008 Australian Open final. Del Potro set up a rematch of the 2009 U.S. Open final he won against 16-time major champion Roger Federer.

Del Potro is 2-11 overall against Federer, including a loss in the 2009 semifinals at Roland Garros, and was asked the key to winning this time.

"Play an unbelievable match. Try to take my opportunities. Serve 100 percent. Trying to play winners with my forehand, with my backhand, and (force) him to raise his game," del Potro explained, then went on a little longer, capping the list with "unbelievable shots."

Parker's gem helps Athletics beat Rangers, 12-1

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Jarrod Parker held Texas hitless until the eighth inning and Brandon Inge drove in four runs in Oakland's eight-run second inning as the Athletics beat the Rangers 12-1 on Monday.

the rookie Parker (2-2) easily worked his way through baseball's highest-scoring offense in his ninth career start before Michael Young grounded a single through the middle for Texas' first hit leading off the eighth.

Parker got a warm ovation from the crowd of 10,120 and then recovered to get out of the inning on two more pitches—a popup by Nelson Cruz and an inning-ending double play from David Murphy. That ended the night for Parker, who allowed one hit, walked three and struck out six.

Inge started the scoring in the big inning with a three-run homer off Scott Feldman (0-4) and capped it with an RBI single as the A's normally meek bats broke through with a big night. Kila Ka'aihue added a two-run homer for the A's, who had lost 10 of 11.

Twins 10, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Missouri, Justin Morneau and Josh Willingham each hit two-run homers, and Trevor Plouffe also went deep as Minnesota held off the Kansas City.

Cole De Vries (1-1) lasted five shaky innings to pick up his first major league victory in his third career start. He got plenty of help from Jamey Carroll, who reached base four times with two RBIs, and Ben Revere, who also drove in a pair of runs.

The game was tied 4-all in the fifth when Morneau belted his homer off Will Smith (1-2), also making his third big league start.

Mariners 8, Angels 6

In Anaheim, California, Munenori Kawasaki had a three-run double and John Jaso had three hits, leading Seattle to a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Mariners starter Jason Vargas (7-4) gave up four runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings. He struck out a season-best eight.

Mike Trout had a career-high four hits and a sacrifice fly and Kendrys Morales hit two home runs for the Angels. Angels manager Mike Scioscia became the ninth manager in AL history to manage 2,000 games with one club.

Angels starter Ervin Santana (2-7) lasted a season-low 4 2-3 innings, and gave up seven runs and eight hits. He walked six and struck out only one.

Cardinals 5, Mets 4

In New York, Allen Craig hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the New York Mets and stopped their season-worst losing streak at five games.

The Cardinals have never been swept in a four-game series in New York. The World Series champions had been outscored 19-1 by the Mets and no-hit by Johan Santana before salvaging the finale at Citi Field.

Craig connected one out after Matt Holliday hit a leadoff single against Jon Rauch (3-5) for a 5-3 lead.

Marc Rzepczynski (1-3) wound up with the win despite allowing Scott Hairston's eighth career pinch-hit homer in the seventh.

Giants 3, Cubs 2

In San Francisco, Ryan Vogelsong won his fourth straight decision and Buster Posey scored the go-ahead run on a double-play grounder in the seventh inning as San Francisco beat Chicago for a four-game sweep.

Brandon Crawford hit an RBI double and drove in another run on a fielder's choice to back Vogelsong (4-2).

Cubs reliever Carlos Marmol (0-2) was hit with a line drive on Angel Pagan's infield single in the seventh but stayed in the game after being checked out, then walked Brandon Belt on four pitches to load the bases for Joaquin Arias, who hit into a double play that scored a run.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Elian Herrera hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Jonathan Papelbon in the ninth inning to lift Los Angeles over Philladelphia.

Placido Polanco hit a tying, two-run homer to help the Phillies rally from a 3-0 deficit against Clayton Kershaw, but it wasn't enough.

Dee Gordon ripped a triple to right-center to start the ninth against Papelbon (0-2). Herrera followed with a grounder through the shortstop hole to put major league-leading Los Angeles ahead to stay.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, rookie Christian Friedrich pitched four-hit ball for seven innings in the best outing of his young career as Colorado beat Arizona for its seventh win in eight games.

The 24-year-old left-hander struck out four and walked two, both in the first inning, to improve to 4-1 in six starts.

Wilin Rosario had a solo home run and an RBI infield single for the Rockies, who snapped a five-game Chase Field losing streak. Joe Saunders (3-4) allowed four runs on 11 hits in 6 2-3 innings to take the loss.

Boxer Shane Mosley announces retirement on Twitter

NEW YORK (AP)—Boxer "Sugar" Shane Mosley is retiring, ending a career in which he won titles in three different weight classes, beat Oscar De La Hoya twice and never was knocked out.

The 40-year-old announced on Twitter that he was hanging up his gloves, saying he "loved every moment of it. Win, lose or draw."

Mosley lost three of his last four fights, including a dreary bout against Manny Pacquiao in May 2011 in which he mostly seemed to be avoiding the Filipino star in the ring.

His last fight was May 5 on the undercard of the fight between Floyd Mayweather and Miguel Cotto. Mosley lost a lopsided decision to rising Mexican star Canelo Alvarez.

The loss dropped his record to 46-8-1.

Mosley began boxing at age 8 and wound up winning three U.S. Amateur titles and a bronze medal at the 1990 Goodwill Games.

His professional career peaked when he won the WBC welterweight title by beating De La Hoya in 2000 before besting the popular fighter again in 2003 to claim the light middleweight title. Mosley also won the IBF lightweight belt in 1997 and was chosen fighter of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

AP

This March 25, 2008 file photo shows Welterweight boxers Sugar Shane Mosley speaking during a press conference in New York.

IFC

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take on Paire at 8:30am, while MP United will challenge Shirley's at 10:30am. Both matches will be played at the Hopwood pitch. Shirley's and Paire automatically marched into the Final Four after finishing in the Top 2 in the double-round robin regular season, while MP United and IFC were ranked third and fourth, respectively, and had to defeat the last finisher Tan Holdings and fifth-placed Matansa to remain in contention for the championship.

IFC boosted its chances for the women's league title after recovering from a 0-1 halftime deficit. Matansa stunned the favored IFC with its aggressiveness on offense in the opening 45 minutes of the game and the former's relentless effort was rewarded when Manami Tadokoro finally found the back of the net in the 29th minute.

Matansa continued to dominate possession in the remaining minutes of first half to keep the upper hand at the break.

At halftime, coach Greg Borja huddled with his wards at the shade and the mentor's pep talk and short relief from the searing heat were all IFC players needed to bounce back.

Borja's counterpart, Lee Epperson, also gave instructions to Matansa players, but they gathered under the heat of the sun at the sidelines and when the game resumed, exhaustion took its toll on them. It did not help that Matansa had a depleted roster for the must-win game, as only one player was available from the bench compared to eight more from IFC.

With the winded Matansa players trying to stay afloat in the second half, IFC's Chuanthip Munthonglang found an opening on defense and made the equalizer just two minutes into the second period. Then six minutes later, it was Khankaew Boathiong's turn to score for the go-ahead goal. IFC hung in there and capitalized on a worn-out Matansa crew to preserve lead and keep the win.

In the first playoff game, it was a one-sided affair for MP United, which drew twin goals from Kristle Ogbac and one each from three different players to shut out the hapless Tan Holdings FC.

Ogbac broke the ice just eight minutes into the first half and Amy Taylor made it a 2-0 advantage after lighting up the scoreboard, anew two minutes later. MP United went on to blank Tan Holdings FC at the break and stretched the lead to three after Ogbac got her second goal in the 54th minute. The fourth goal—from Michelle Masga—came early (56th minute), while the fifth and last, courtesy of Seong Hyun Lee, was made with still 20 minutes left in the match.

Meanwhile, winners of this Saturday's semis will face off in the winner-take-all finale on June 16.

KFC

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KFC to keep the win.

In contrast, KFC was steady in the last 4:43 of the match, canning crucial free throws and grabbing offensive boards for putbacks to hold off R-Lyn's rally.

After Capuyon's equalizer, Jeff Durant made a split and then nailed a putback off his second free throw miss. Durant's three straight points ignited a short 8-0 KFC rally with Ralph Francisco adding another charity, Albert Salas making a fastbreak layup, and the former nailing another putback for enough cushion.

On defense, Durant held his ground against R-Lyn's Twin Towers—Aaron Engelhardt and Aaron Wood. The two R-Lyn's big men scored in double figures with Allen drilling 12 and Engelhardt logging 10, but missed a bundle in the paint, as they either had butterfingers or overshot their mark. At one point in the last two minutes of the match, Engelhardt and Wood combined for four straight shots off offensive rebounds and missed all before Durant finally grabbed the defensive board.

John John Capuyon broke R-Lyn's silence with a layup at the 1:05 mark, while his father, John, banked a triple at the buzzer, capping the team's failed attempt to enter the win column.

Francisco top-scored for KFC with 15 points, starting the game with a triple and leading the team's fastbreak plays in the second period to post their biggest lead, 28-16. Durant added 13.

DLX/Irish Spring 67, Docomo 52

Also on a winning run in Bracket B was DLX/Irish Spring, which topped Docomo in the curtain-raiser.

A 24-10 run in the fourth quarter gave Irish Spring back-to-back wins against the winless Docomo (0-2), which led in the first two quarters before collapsing in the second, allowing too many free throws in the fourth period.

Art Trajano started Irish Spring's recovery in the second half, making 8 of his 12 points in the third period with his last basket in that quarter putting his team in the lead, 43-42.

Irish Spring continued the rally in the fourth quarter with Bernard Montano anchoring the team's offense and scoring 9 of his 17 in the final canto. Montano and company kept the driver's seat and widened the gap in the fourth with their free throws, canning 12 charities—five from Bernard and four from his brother, JR.

Irish Spring's free throws made was more than the field goals (four) Docomo hit in the payoff period. Olan Tengco paced Docomo with 14 markers.

First Game

DLX/Irish Spring 67—B. Montano 17, Trajano 12, J. Montano 10, Garcia 5, Leong 5, Brien 4, Montano 4, Cordero 2, Hilario 2.

Docomo 52 – Tengco 14, Enriquez 9, Gomez 7, Usi 7, Lagardo 4, Cultura 4, Tudela 2, Bautista 2, Oson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-19, 27-31, 43-42, 67-52.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 62 – Francisco 15, Durant 13, Deleon Guerrero 6, Salas 6, Lee 6, Omnes 5, Tinio 4, Mendiola 2, Tumbaga 2, Sevilla 2.

R'Lyn's 58 – Reyes 14, Wood 12, Engelhardt 10, Capuyon Jr. 10, Diaz 6, Capuyon Sr. 3, M. Puno 2, Buenabajo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 32-31, 49-43, 62-58.

PACQUIAO

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"If he looks bad, he retires," Roach said. "At least I'll tell him to. And he may be the first one who will listen to me."

Roach knows something about aging fighters. He once was one himself, losing five of his last six fights and taking the kind of beatings that may have led to the Parkinson's he suffers from today. He fought on club cards and in casinos far from the Las Vegas Strip, always sure that in his next fight he would do better.

The fighter is almost always the last one to acknowledge it's over and, though Pacquiao is only 33, he's been in a lot of fights and a lot of wars.

Pacquiao plans to fight only a few more times anyway. But to make sure he understands when it's finally time to quit, fighter and trainer have made a pact.

"I always ask Freddie, what's my strength like, what's my speed," Pacquiao said. "If my speed is going down I want to know. I would listen to Freddie."

So far, neither trainer nor fighter have noticed much slippage, at least in the gym. Pacquiao blames his performance against Marquez to distractions he was facing in his family life, and the fact that Marquez is a very tough matchup for him style-wise.

Still, as he sat in a small dressing room getting his hands wrapped after finally arriving in his Ferrari, Pacquiao said he knows this is a fight in which he must look impressive.

"I want to prove that I'm still young, and I can still fight," he said.

To do that, the Filipino slugger is trying to block out the distractions that accumulated during his remarkable run. He sold his interest in a casino back home, got rid of his cockfighting ranch, and stopped playing basketball. More importantly, perhaps, he rededicated himself to his wife and his religion, spending most of his nights now doing Bible study.

There will be no concert stretching into the early morning hours on the Las Vegas Strip after this fight, as had been Pacquiao's habit. There may not even be a run at governor in his home province of Sarangani, something Pacquiao said he would make his mind up about later this year.

He says he's at peace with himself finally because he believes he has eternal salvation. It's not a gimmick to sell the fight, but a major change in his life. And it worries some in his entourage, who wonder if Pacquiao can still bring himself to be angry in the ring.

The champ laughs when asked about it.

"Yes," Pacquiao says simply.

On this day, just a little more than a week before the fight, Pacquiao goes three rounds each with two different fighters. He starts slow, constantly grabbing at his headgear as if doesn't fit, while trying to fend off some rushes by his younger sparring partners. He gets hit with several hard left hooks, but by the last few rounds is delivering more punishment than he is taking.

Roach knows what he's looking for, and he likes what he sees. Fighter and trainer have been together for 26 fight camps now over 11 years, and the partnership has made them both wealthy and famous in different ways.

The late trainer Eddie Futch had told him to never open a gym. Too much trouble, too much hassle, too many fighters skipping out without paying. Indeed, there's a sign at the counter in the gym upstairs in a rundown strip mall reminding everyone that May dues of $50 are now overdue.

The Wild Card draws aspiring fighters, and actors who think they're fighters. They train together democratically, but when Pacquiao arrives the gym is his alone.

"I started this because I thought you never know when the next Muhammad Ali is going to walk through the door," Roach said. "Next thing I know, here comes Manny Pacquiao."

Their time together is inevitably drawing to a close, because no fighter escapes the ravages of age. Just like Mayweather no longer seems to have the legs to stay away from an opponent for 12 rounds, Pacquiao showed in recent fights that he might be becoming beatable, too.

He'll make millions to fight the unbeaten Bradley, though he knows it's not the fight fans really want to see. Not much he can do about that, Pacquiao says, as long as Mayweather insists on getting the lion's share of the purse when they should be splitting it equally.

"If he wants to fight it's up to him," Pacquiao said. "I'm ready to fight."

No doubt, because Pacquiao always seems to be up for a good fight.

The real question now is how much longer he will fight.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	23	.574	–
Baltimore	30	24	.556	1
New York	29	24	.547	1 1/2
Boston	28	26	.519	3
Toronto	28	26	.519	3

Central Division

Chicago	31	23	.574	–
Cleveland	28	25	.528	2 1/2
Detroit	25	29	.463	6
Kansas City	23	30	.434	7 1/2
Minnesota	21	33	.389	10

West Division

Texas	32	23	.582	–
Los Angeles	28	28	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	25	32	.439	8
Oakland	24	31	.436	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	30	22	.577	–
Miami	31	23	.574	–
New York	31	24	.564	1/2
Atlanta	29	25	.537	2
Philadelphia	28	28	.500	4

Central Division

Cincinnati	30	23	.566	–
Pittsburgh	27	26	.509	3
St. Louis	28	27	.509	3
Milwaukee	24	30	.444	6 1/2
Houston	23	31	.426	7 1/2
Chicago	18	36	.333	1 2 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	34	21	.618	–
San Francisco	31	24	.564	3
Arizona	25	30	.455	9
Colorado	24	30	.444	9 1/2
San Diego	18	37	.327	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OL'ACES

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with four RBIs and four runs with two stolen bases. D-9ers' Lawrence Dikito batted 2-for-2 with an RBI, three runs, a base on balls, and a hit-by-pitch.

Brewers 16, D-9ers 0

The Brewers got right to work and moved around four runs n the first inning. A hit and a walk set up a two-RBI base smash by Manny Sablan who was later driven to the plate by Byron Kaipat. Kaipat then sprinted home off a ball in the dirt.

D-9ers left two runners stranded, but went three up and three down in the second inning, after which the Brewers hustled out two more runs in the bottom frame off a pair of leadoff hits and some errors.

Clifton Silil and Roy Celis both touched home for the second time after just two frames.

The Brewers then trudged ahead, 10-0, in the third off some more sketchy infield play and tallied its last six runs in the fourth inning, while the D-9ers remained riddled against four different pitchers who all came to play last week.

The Brewers loaded the bases in the fourth off three walks and a fielder's choice. Then after Keegle Taitano trotted home off a wild pitch, Sablan obliged with a two-RBI base rip that was followed by an RBI double from Kaipat. The bash brothers would score moments later off a balk and another wild pitch.

D-9ers stood up the Brewers at third base in the next two innings, but simply never got things rolling at the plate.

Brewers hurlers Ota Noboyuke, Vince Cepeda, Tom Castro, and Kaipat struck out 10 as a unit and held the D9-ers to just one hit with three walks.

Brewers' Kaipat batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs, and a base on ball.

Lopsided wins in UFO Masters league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Routs were the theme at the resumption of the 2012 UFO Masters Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, Bayani/LBT Appraisal whipped VisMinda/Hi-Five, 91-67, for its debut win.

Bayani scored 22 points each in the first and second quarters, while limiting VisMinda to 23 points in the opening half en route to the easy win.

Jack Palacios led Bayani's lopsided victory with his 17 points, while Tony Diaz and Alex Ocampo added 16, and Felix Palacios chipped in 11. Diaz had 7 in the first period, lifting Bayani to a 21-11 advantage, while Jack Palacios also had 7 in the second canto for a comfortable 44-23 halftime lead. Bayani never looked back from thereon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX/Armatech's Bruce Berline, right, pulls up for a short jumper against Laguna/Twinkle's Jerry Lopez during the second quarter of their game in the UFO Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Batangas 78, MAFEA 49

In the second game, Batangas/Fong's Bakery recovered from its opening day loss to MDX/Armatech (63-72) with a big 29-point win over MAFEA/CMI.

A 30-14 scoring in the third period allowed Batangas to pull away after a close first half that ended with MAFEA behind by only four, 22-26.

Joel Buniag, Jun Abedes, and Romy Bernardo joined forces in the third-quarter juggernaut, combining for 19 points, while their three other teammates also made it to the scoreboard that showed Batangas already on top by 20, 56-36.

Abedes went on to top-score for Batangas with 22 points, while Buniag contributed 19.

MDX 95, Laguna 78

Defending champion MDX/Armatech closed out the night with a 17-point win over Laguna/Twinkle.

A 24-9 start was all MDX needed to get its second win in as many games and take the early lead in the six-team field.

Martin Moreno led MDX's good start, scoring 11 straight points in the opening canto. He finished with 15, just one point short of the team's leading scorer, Yosh Gabaldon. The 10 MDX players also scored, showing the defending champion's much deeper bench against the depleted roster of Laguna.

First Game

Bayani/LBT Appraisal 91 – J. Palacios 17, Diaz 16, Ocampo 16, F. Palacios 11, Bicera 7, De La Torre 6, Pineda 6, Tiples 6.

VisMinda/Hi-Five 67 – Olfindo 15, Mangubat 14, Sevilla 11, Quemado 6, Miguel 6, Santos 6, Atalig 4, Bello 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-11, 44-23, 70-43, 91-67.

Second Game

Batangas/Fong's Bakery 76 – Abedes 22, Bernardo 18, Buniag 9, Mendoza 8, Alejando 8, Gatdula 6, Alano 5, Puno 4, Jacob 3, Teng 2.

MAFEA/CMI 49 – Surima 21, Malicden 12, Paraiso 5, Factor 4, Sevilla 2, Jastillana 2, Garcia 2, Leong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 26-22, 56-36, 76-49.

Third Game

MDX/Armatech 95 – Gabaldon 16, Moreno 15, Montano 11, Berline 10, Abuy 8, Trajano 6, Jiang 6, Poquiz 6, Tobias 5, Malasarte 4, Crisostomo 2, Canedo 2.

Laguna/Twinkle 78 – Pangilinan 17, Lansang 14, Villegas 12, Pablo 10, Salazar 8, Manipon 6, Tabora 5, Lopez 2, Ebuen 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 40-27, 68-53, 95-78.

Loving Hands, Safety 1st win in Docomo U17 opener

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Loving Hands Daycare and Safety 1st came away the victors of the Docomo Pacific Summer Youth Basketball League's U17 division season opener held last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Loving Hands outlasted IT&E Rollers-A, 59-50, in the curtain raiser, while Safety 1st torched Rollers 16B, 49-20, in the late match.

The U17 season continues next Monday with the Cougars taking on IT&E Rollers-B at 5:30pm followed by RBC-Agape challenging PROA at 6:30pm.

Meanwhile, Docomo's U25 division opening matches will be held in Garapan this Friday starting at 5:30pm featuring the R-Rebels against the Saints followed by GVH squaring off with Safety 1st at 6:30pm.

The rest of the U25 field consists of the Shottas, Rollers, Peacemakers, and Hi-5.

Loving Hands had seven different players contribute offensively in the opening 16 minutes of Monday's early pairing and managed a slim, 20-18, favor at midpoint.

Then Loving Hands' Jack Aranda turned it up a notch in the second half and dropped 14 points that went with nine more in support from teammate Bryl Alegre en route to the sound victory.

IT&E Rollers-A hung around for a good while, but Loving Hands maintained at least a two-possession margin for the majority of the contest.

Aranda paced the field with 18 points, two baskets more than IT&E Rollers-A's mainstay Prince Factor.

It was all Safety 1st in the second game as the group pummeled the greener Rollers 16B squad, 24-3, in the first half.

Safety 1st's John Darag buried a couple of 3-pointers that matched the inside production from teammate Erick Dela Rosa.

Rollers 16B got things rolling in the second half, but could not dig its way out of the early hole.

Keolani Rios led the young up-and-comers late in the match with 9 points and finished just 1-point shy of teammate Ted Vivero. However, Safety 1st's Darag and Mike Mancao matched their effort in the final period.

Darag led all scorers with 16 points, while Rollers 16B's Vivero finished 10 points in the loss.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Rollers 16B's AC Flores looks for a way around Safety 1st's Ben Manibusan in Monday's Docomo Pacific Youth Summer Basketball League season opener at the Garapan Basketball Court.

First Game

Loving Hands Daycare 59 – Aranda 18, Alegre 11, De Guzman 9, Villanueva 8, Javier 6, Ito 4, Feria 2.

IT&E Rollers-A 50 – Factor 14, Iglesias 12, Lixing 11, Malonzo 7, Ano 5.

Scoring by halves: 20-18, 59-50.

Second Game

Safety 1st 49 – Darag 16, Mancao 13, Dela Rosa 8, Babauta 6, Rabasto 4, T. Caro 2.

Rollers 16B 20 – Vivero 10, Rios 9, Perez 1.

Scoring by halves: 24-3, 49-20.

CWGA June Ace tourney this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association is holding its June Ace of the Month Tournament set this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. Show time is set at 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off.

Saturday's round marks the group's third event of the season.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

For more information contact Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621 or Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Salalila shines in SRCR's May 'Reverse' Races

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Paul Salalila took the pole and the checkered flag in Sunday's Saipan Radio Control Racers Association Open class race held during the group's monthly event at the As-Lito track.

To put a spin on the latest series of races, organizers conducted the heats in reverse layout of the normal track and let the young gun class racers test their skills with the adults.

Surprisingly, a number of young guns rose to the occasion and turned in some nice performances.

Salalila still swept the Open main event in his Kyosho Ultima with a final post time of 7:06:98 that beat out Rodney Catalla's HPI Blitz (7:27:11) and Jude Dickinson's Team Losi XXX-SCT (7:28:01), but up-and-comer Lemmart Diaz and Franz Decena raised some eyebrows in the B-Stock Main event; both young guns raced TraXXas Slash trucks; Salalila led all 14 laps of the Open Stock-Main event.

Diaz came into the B-Main class finals as the top qualifier, but Decena stole the show in the finale with a post time of 6:25:62, crossing the line in front of James Salalila's Kyosho Ultima and Leo Ray Salalila's Team Associated SC10. The latter pair's post times were not recorded.

In addition, Catalla, and his HPI Blitz, swept the Stock A-Main race, coming in as top qualifier and finishing the final in 6:07:67, ahead of Paul Salalila's TraXXas Slash (6:28:81) and Jojo Saracho HPI Blitz pick-up. Catalla led all 13 laps, while Saracho took third seat despite lasting only 12 laps.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, which regularly take part in practices every Sunday in As Lito.

The group tries to hold a day-long monthly event in their four racing categories. The public is welcome to check out the track and learn more about the hobby.

Contact SRCR's Rodney Catalla at 256-7119 for more information.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Four racers barrel around a hard left turn in a fight for second place during Sunday's Saipan Radio Control Racers "Reverse" May Race Series opening qualifying round at their track in As Lito.

Sharapova stumbles to French Open win; Li loses

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Thunder beats Spurs to take 3-2 lead

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Ol'Aces, Brewers rout D-9ers in SML

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces and Tan Holdings-Brewers notched run-rule victories over the Rep. Ray Yumul-D-9ers as the Saipan Major League season continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ol'Aces shellacked the D9-ers, 20-8, on Monday, not long after the Brewers lit them up, 16-0, last Wednesday.

Ol'Aces' win improved its unbeaten streak to three, while the Brewers nabbed its fourth win in five games. The D-9ers are still trying to break into the win column after six tries.

The season continues tonight at 6:30pm with Ol'Aces facing the defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (2-1).

Then following next week's CNMI Little League District Tournament, the SML season resumes on June 14 with the Brewers meeting up with the IP&E-Shell Fielders (2-2).

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Aces' Juan Iguel batted 3 for 5 with 4RBIs and four runs in Monday's SML season matchup against the D-9ers on Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfied.

Ol'Aces 20, D-9ers 8

D-9ers started off with a brief 3-0 lead in their first two turns at the plate, but Ol'Aces wiped it away in the bottom of the second inning for a 4-3 lead.

J.D. Dikito led off with a single and scored off a wild pitch and two hit batsmen set up a two-RBI base smash by Juan Iguel. Iguel then stole two bases before scoring off an error.

D-9ers managed two runs to start the third, but the Ol'Aces barreled ahead, 12-5, in the bottom frame off six hits.

Zack Dela Cruz bagged an RBI single, Nokki Saralu bashed a two-RBI base rip, Juan Maratita followed him with another RBI single, and Ben Taisacan brought home a run in his second at bat of the inning.

D-9ers came up empty in the fourth inning and had its back broken in the bottom portion as Ol'Aces posted up four more runs of primarily off errors.

Juan Tenorio, Iguel, and Taisacan all cashed in with some timely RBI singles.

D-9ers managed two runs in the top of the fifth, but Ol'Aces raised the ante with another four runs in the bottom half of the inning off five hits. Iguel and Taisacan struck again with RBI base hits.

Ol'Aces kept D-9ers at bay in the sixth and held them to just one run in the final stand.

Ol'Aces' Iguel batted 3-for-5

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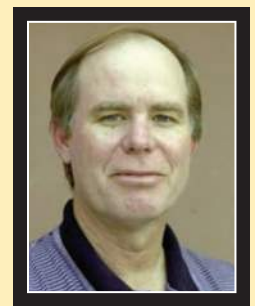
Pacquiao needs to be impressive



TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, California (AP)—The gym had been cleared, and the wait for Manny Pacquiao had begun. He would spar six rounds this day to prepare for his fight with Timothy Bradley, and there was security at the door of the Wild Card to make sure no one but the usual entourage and assorted fight types were on hand to watch.

No cameras, no video. Nothing to give away what Pacquiao plans to do in the ring Saturday night against Bradley, though trainer Freddie Roach hardly seemed concerned.

Listen to Roach, and Pacquiao couldn't have picked a better opponent. After struggling in his last fight against Juan Manuel Marquez, he gets a fighter who doesn't hit all that hard and shouldn't be able to match Pacquiao's speed.

"He's no killer, but he tries hard," Roach said of Bradley. "Manny should eat him up as he comes forward. I think Manny should look really good in this fight."

And if he doesn't? Well, then you finally can forget about that big fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. that now seems destined never to happen.

See PACQUIAO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KFC/Taco Bell's Christian Ombes, right, and R'Lyn's Aaron Engelhardt battle for the loose ball during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

IFC, MP United complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Independents FC and MP United punched the last two semis tickets in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Spring League after beating separate foes last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United routed Tan Holdings FC in the first playoff game, 5-0, while IFC slipped past Matansa FC in the second match, 2-1, to join early semi-finalists Shirley's FC and Paire FC to the next round.

In the semis, which will be played this Saturday, IFC will

See IFC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IFC (in blue and black uniform) and Matansa players are tangled up as they duel for possession during the first half of their playoff game in the NMIFA women's league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

KFC keeps undefeated record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KFC/Taco Bell extended its winning run in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after outlasting R-Lyn's, 62-58, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

KFC now was three wins in as many games to keep pace with Bracket A leader Fastbreakers (4-0), while R-Lyn's fell to a 0-2 record, failing to break into the win column after scoring only two field goals in the last 4:43 of the second match of the night.

R-Lyn's forced the first deadlock in the game, 53-all, off John John Capuyon's layup and had several opportunities to grab the lead, but committed errors in the closing minutes and missed second, third, and even fourth chance baskets, allowing

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